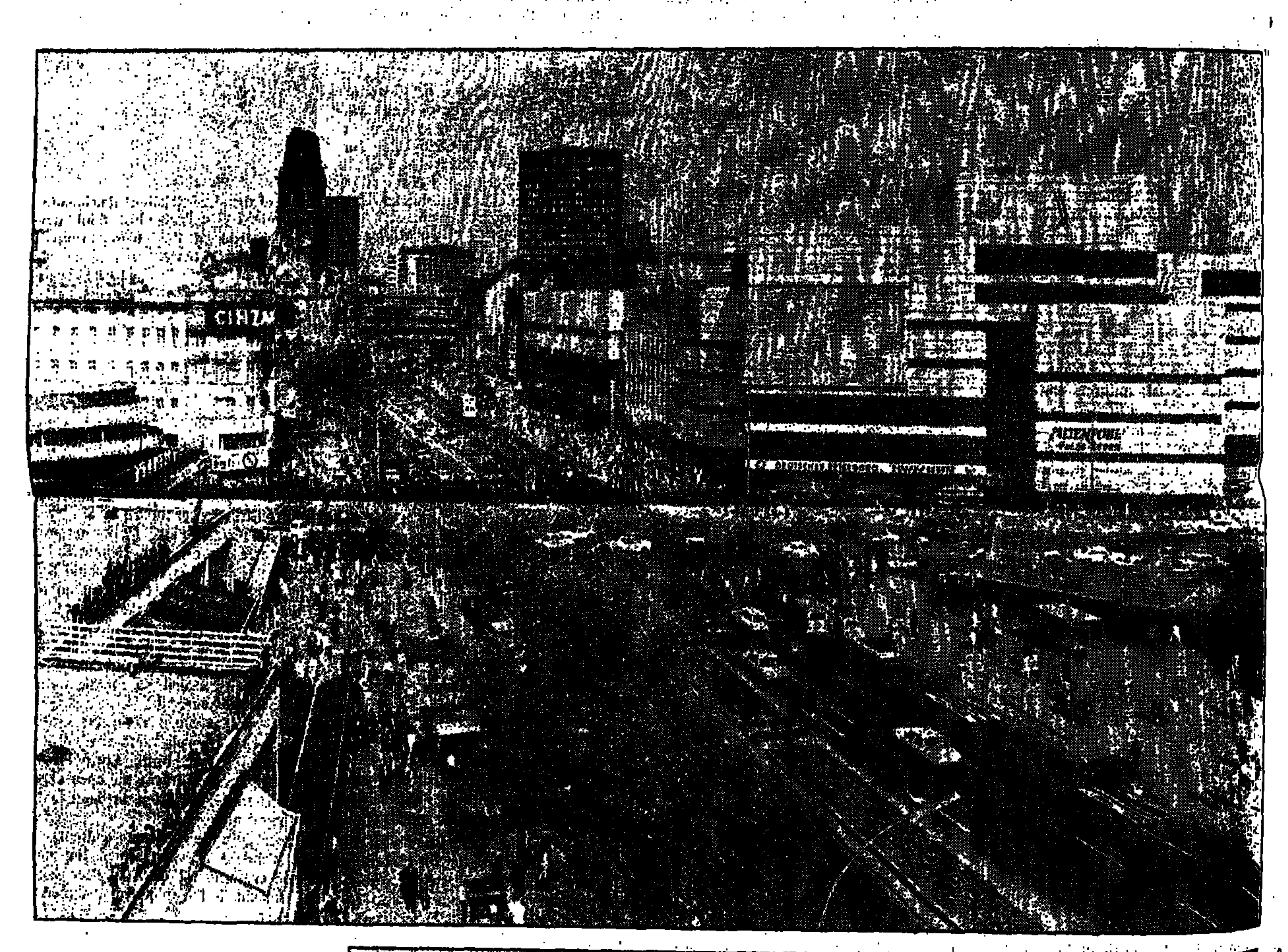
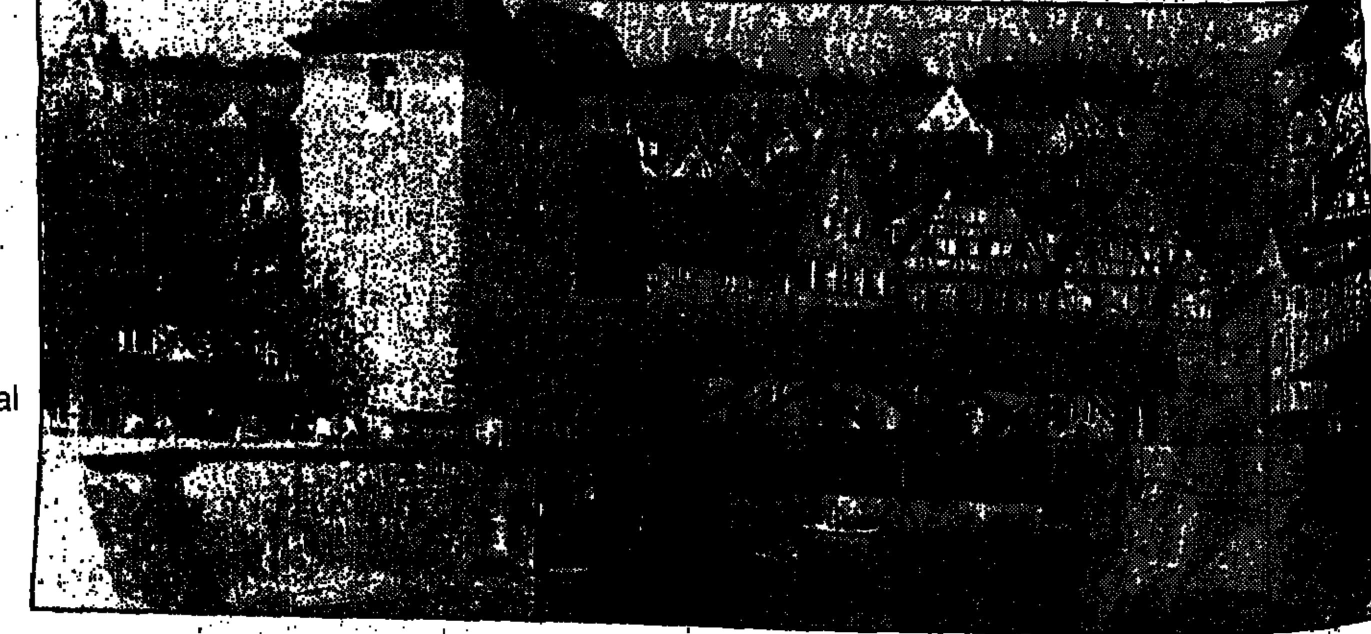




The German Tribune

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Bonn talks on new hijack sanctions

Frankfurter Rundschau

Tough international sanctions against countries that harbour hijackers have been discussed by experts from seven countries at a two-day conference in Bonn ending on 3 August.

The meeting follows a decision by the US, Canadian, Japanese, British, French, German and Italian leaders at the Bonn economic summit on 17 July to take more drastic action against air piracy.

The moves envisaged involved intractable legal problems in a number of the seven countries, the conference was told, but these were set aside for the time being.

The delegates kept to the brief given them by their heads of government and debated the procedural aspects of a civil aviation boycott on countries that refuse to try or hand over hijackers.

The first step would be a telephone, teleprinter or radio link between the seven countries to relay immediate details of hijackings anywhere in the world.

Bonn intends to set up a round-the-clock hijacking desk at the Interior Ministry.

The seven countries propose to boycott civil aviation to and from countries that neither extradite hijackers nor start legal proceedings against them.

A similar ban is proposed should a country fail to return a hijacked aircraft, but this has seldom happened and played only a minor role at the Bonn talks.

The threat of sanctions is aimed mainly at countries which grant hijackers asylum or set them free for alleged political reasons.

Uniformly tough sentences on hijackers were felt by the meeting to be indispensable if hijacking were to be combated successfully.

In the Federal Republic of Germany hijackers are liable to sentences of between 12 months and life, which means the West German criminal code comes rougly in the middle of the seven countries for severity.

Conference recommendations now go to the seven governments.

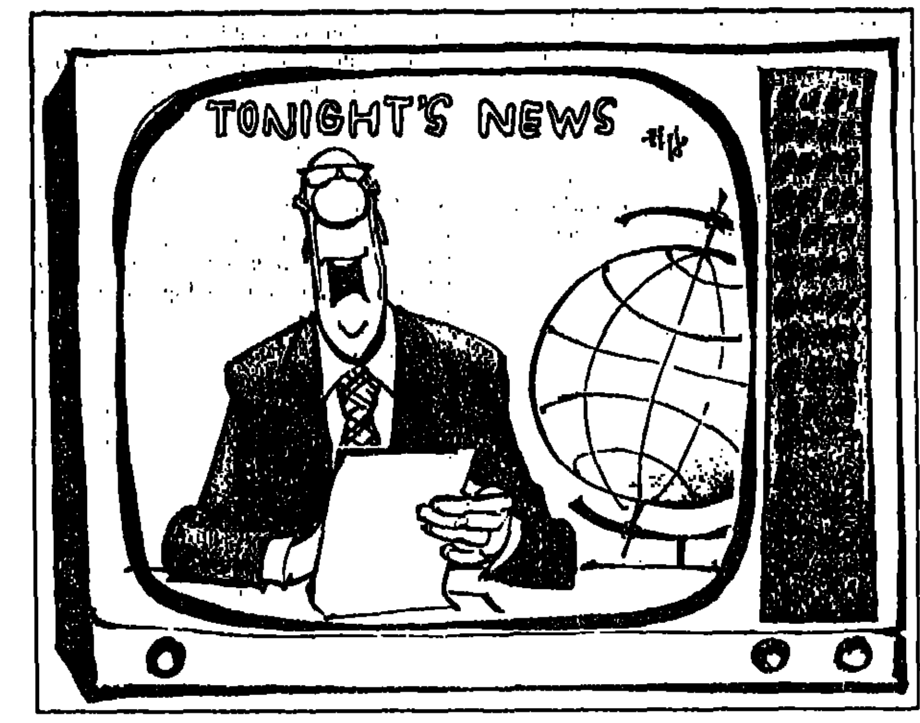
The 17 July summit declaration on air piracy may not be binding but it carries substantial political weight, according to a Bonn Foreign Ministry spokesman.

The seven countries can be expected to embark on brisk diplomatic activity to canvass international support for the Bonn declaration.

Volkmar Hoffmann

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 4 August 1978)

IN THIS ISSUE



"There have been no terrorists attacks today in northern Greenland, Liechtenstein and the Galapagos Islands."
(Cartoon: Haitzinger/Munchen)

CSCE's first science forum for Hamburg

The first meeting of the European Security Conference's scientific forum is to be held in Hamburg in February 1980, 130 scientists from the 35 CSCE countries agreed after more than five weeks of talks in Bonn.

Meetings of a scientific forum were first suggested to the European Security Conference in 1973 by Bonn Foreign Minister Walter Scheel.

State secretary Peter Hermes of the Foreign Ministry said in his final address to the Bonn gathering that agreement to hold the forum's first meeting in Hamburg was further proof that cooperation as seen in the Helsinki accords was possible.

Science, medicine, the arts and social sciences will be reviewed at the two-week conference, with the emphasis on alternative energy and food production to cope with the population explosion.

Further items on the Hamburg agenda, it was decided in talks that continued up to shortly before the final report was published in Bonn, will be heart diseases, cancer and virus complaints, all of which have increased alarmingly in both East and West.

Environmental and town planning issues will also be discussed.

Professor Khokhlov of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, the chief Soviet delegate, said he expected the Hamburg gathering to be a forum of the best brains in international science.

He said the preliminary talks in Bonn had been most successful and praised the cordial atmosphere and the organisation by the German hosts.

Dr Peter Hermes referred to the role the Hamburg forum would play as "part of the CSCE process." The topics would interest a large number of scientists.

On reason for the conference was to extend individual contacts and increase information flow between both individual scientists and scientific institutions.

He was pleased that the preliminary gathering had chosen to hold the first meeting in the Federal Republic.

Dr Hermes expressed special gratitude to the Swedish delegation which, in concert with other non-aligned countries, had fostered agreement by submitting balanced compromise proposals.

The East bloc was reportedly in favour of a limited range of topics, whereas the West wanted as wide a range as possible.

Agreement was eventually reached on the basis of Basket Three of the Helsinki accords, which says that problems of common interest in scientific developments are to be discussed, along with the promotion of better contacts. *dpa*

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 31 July 1978)

Diplomatic network widening

Bremer Nachrichten

There are only seven countries in which Bonn has neither an embassy nor some other diplomatic arrangement.

The Federal Republic of Germany has diplomatic ties with 145 countries, but only 123 Ambassies. Outside Europe ambassadors frequently represent Bonn in two countries; one ambassador is even accredited to five.

Mongolia, for instance, is looked after by the embassy in Tokyo, Fiji and Tonga by the embassy in Wellington.

But the Foreign Ministry's annual report includes a map which shows that there are still large parts of the world where Bonn lacks cultural representation.

The seven countries with which Bonn has no diplomatic ties whatever are Albania, Angola, Cambodia, North Korea, Taiwan, Nauru and Bhutan.

The reason is most readily apparent in Angola's case. Bonn has recognised Angola but the Angolans refuse to believe that rockets tested at a site in neighbouring Zaire are a strictly commercial venture.

The company behind the rocket venture is a private one with head offices in Neu-Isenburg, near Frankfurt, but Angola suspects Bonn of bankrolling the operation.

Rightly or wrongly, Angola feels threatened by the rocket launching pad in Zaire and holds Bonn to blame.

The Foreign Ministry is keen enough

Continued on page 2

■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Europarliament elections will boost European integration

Direct elections to the European Parliament in Strasbourg are now to be held in the second week in June 1979, the EEC Council of Ministers has decided.

The elections can be expected to have effects in two main areas: on public opinion and on the Common Market's system of government.

Direct elections ought to mobilise support for European integration among the voters of the Nine, support which will be kept up by periodic election campaigns.

Campaign issues will never be limited to specifically European policy measures concerning regional or industrial economic interests.

The central issue will always be whether the European Community should become a federal state with a consolidated system of government.

It is hard to predict the effect of campaigns of this kind. There will undoubtedly be fluctuations in support for integration, with differences from country to country.

There is no way of telling how powerful the referendum-like views of Common Market voters will prove. What can be said is that the EEC electorate has

Frankfurter Allgemeine

never before been able to speak on European integration as clearly as it can in direct elections to the European Assembly.

Politically, this must surely count for something. The campaign and its results ought to encourage pro-Europeans in national parliaments to pursue more vigorous integration policies in the capital cities of the Nine. A high turn-out is therefore desirable.

Direct elections will certainly transform the Strasbourg Assembly. It seems reasonable to assume they will boost MPs' self-confidence, especially if there is a high poll.

The European Parliament will continue to be called an assembly (the name given it in the Treaty of Rome) but it would be surprising if it did not assume parliamentary airs before long.

This trend would be further enhanced if leading national politicians were persuaded to stand. This need not entail a choice; membership of both national and European parliaments is permitted.

The most interesting question is how long it will be before a directly-elected European Parliament starts to make political use of its existing rights, especially control over the Brussels budget, and to gain new ones.

True, there are obstacles to extra powers for the European Parliament, and they are not merely the limited provisions of the Treaty of Rome.

The chief one is likely to be the political reservations stated by a number of EEC countries, Britain and France in particular, in framing their European Elections Bills.

The French government, for instance, was under pressure from the Gaullists, without whose backing legislation could not have been passed.

The price of Gaullist support was a preamble saying that any decision by a directly-elected European Parliament which did not accord with France's interpretation of the Treaty of Rome was both "de jure and de facto null and void."

In Britain the House of Commons decided that its sovereignty could in no way be curtailed by the European Parliament, and that without the approval of Westminster the British government was not entitled to agree to an extension of the European Assembly's powers to the detriment of the legislative authority of the House.

These are undeniably barriers, but they are not necessarily insuperable. All they mean is that the battle for extra power for the European Parliament must be fought in national parliaments too.

Will the European Assembly take up the fight? It would be surprising if it were not to, as existing constitutional provisions run counter to its interests.

But European constitutional history has a long tradition of parliaments and assemblies running counter to the constitutional law of their day and having to redress the balance in their favour.

Parliaments have regularly succeeded in amending constitutional provisions to the detriment of previous holders of power. They may have suffered setbacks but in the end they triumphed.

Everywhere parliaments have fought for and won the rights that kings or privileged estates refused to grant.

So what matters is that direct elections will enable the European Assembly to gain a foothold in the doorway to constitutional developments.

Its initial demands are likely to be the ones listed in the Tindemans Report:

— The right to initiate legislation, which would oblige the Council of Ministers to debate proposals backed by Strasbourg.

— An extension of the European Assembly's right to advise on all issues relating to the proposed European Union.

The European Assembly is naturally at loggerheads with the Common Market Commission in Brussels, its brief being to monitor the commission's activities.

Yet Strasbourg and Brussels, the European Parliament and the European Commission, will also be tacit allies inasmuch as both are committed to European integration.

In this role their joint adversary is the Council of Ministers. So it may be assumed that all new rights with which the European Commission is entrusted will automatically enhance the rights of the European Parliament as its constitutional watchdog. And vice-versa.

Günther Gillessen

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 3 August 1978)

Diplomatic net

Continued from page 1

to establish and maintain ties with everyone. At the end of 1975 there were only 119 embassies to today's 123.

Ambassadors all over the world are frequently accredited to more than one government. A number of ambassadors in Bonn are accredited elsewhere in Europe, so Gambia is not upset because Bonn's ambassador in Senegal looks after German interests in Bathurst, capital of Gambia.

The government of the Bahamas is similarly unperturbed that its German ambassador spends most of his time as Bonn's ambassador to Jamaica. Nearly 20 ambassadors have dual roles of this kind.

Bonn is however poorly represented in the East bloc. In addition to the embassy in Washington, there are consulates-general in Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, Detroit, Boston, New York, Houston, Atlanta and offices in New Orleans and Miami.

Yet in Russia, which is even larger than the United States on the map, Bonn is represented by the embassy in Moscow and a lone consultate-general in Leningrad.

This under-representation in the East bloc is even more evident on the map of cultural representation abroad. The Goethe Institute has no representation whatever in the East bloc, where the GDR has successfully seen to it that this is how matters stay.

Siegfried Michel

(Bremer Nachrichten, 7 August 1978)

EEC-Turkey pact 'on crisis edge'

An EEC delegation has returned to Brussels from several days of talks with Turkish officials in Ankara convinced that ties between the Common Market and Turkey are on the brink of crisis again.

Turkey, the delegation told the Nine, is keen to negotiate a full review of the reciprocal commitments listed in the 1963 treaty of association.

To help end the current controversy, which is particularly acute, Turkey has suggested a freeze on all agreements and protocols for a cooling-off period of four to five years.

New terms are then to be negotiated on a "completely new basis."

A number of topics were discussed at the Ankara talks, but the EEC and Turkish delegates agreed on hardly anything.

The main bone of contention is the long-overdue abolition of Turkish tariffs on imports from EEC countries. The Common Market insists on it, while the Turks reject the idea.

In a confidential report by the Turkish Foreign Ministry, Ankara's case is that such a free rein on imports would have catastrophic consequences for domestic industry.

Turkey already imports more than two-thirds of its needs from abroad from the European Community.

Ankara takes a dim view of the ban on recruitment of workers from non-EEC countries, especially that applied by Bonn. Since Turkey cannot provide an estimated three million unemployed with jobs, the government is keen to regain free access to EEC labour markets.

Turkey also wants to negotiate new preference terms for farm produce exported to the EEC to ensure treatment equal to that enjoyed by North African exporters.

In recent years Turkish agricultural exports to the Common Market countries have declined substantially.

Ankara's arguments are somewhat illogical, in that Turkey wants advantages similar to those enjoyed by full members of the Common Market while refusing to make the slightest attempt to adapt economically itself.

These contradictions are due, for the most part, to serious differences of opinion within the Turkish government.

Premier Bülent Ecevit, who discussed with the EEC's Roy Jenkins at the end of May the possibility of reactivating frozen relations, has been unable so far to bridge the gap.

The strongest and most influential advocate of coolness towards the EEC has been the state planning authority, whose senior officials are convinced that Turkey has yet to derive the slightest benefit from association with the Nine.

Turkey's state planners, some of whom have left-wing views, are fully backed by industrial interests alarmed at the prospect of Turkey being deluged by imported goods.

What planners advocate is a five-year moratorium on EEC commitments, and as long as such views are allowed free rein by the Turkish government there can be no prospect of a relaxation in tension between Turkey and the Common Market.

SAD

(Die Welt, 4 August 1978)

The German Tribune

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

Opposition must forget polls and get down to policies

Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's position is now stronger than ever, with his authority at home and abroad at its peak.

The reasons are manifold, but one springs to mind first: the leading role Herr Schmidt played at the Bonn economic summit. The state visit by President Carter, during which the Chancellor also made a great impression, rounded off the picture the world has of the German head of government.

The Bonn Opposition can only look on helplessly. Yet it has nothing to blame itself for — it has made no errors or omissions which contribute to Schmidt's summer glory.

The Opposition is completely without power over international conferences and state visits. This is quite independent of personalities. The American President was attentive to Opposition leader Helmut Kohl in Bonn, but this was no more than attention to the rules of democracy and politeness. The leader of the Opposition was not at the economic summit — he could not be present. Woe to him who does not govern.

This does not, however, prevent Kohl being criticised by his party. Yet the CDU ought not now to waste its energy in doubts and criticism of its leader. Schmidt had the wind of world politics in his sails this summer, and no other leader of the Opposition could have done any better than Kohl.

In the democratic struggle for power all does not depend on personalities. Much depends on the wind, on currents and movements which suddenly start and as suddenly stop. No science has been able to find out where they come from and what laws they obey — if any.

Let us look back. Adenauer's authority was due to his perception and his strength of will, but they were as strong as ever when the people of this country suddenly decided they had had enough of him. What caused the sudden change?

The majority of the voters were happy to confirm Erhard in office as Chancellor in 1965. Only a year later the majority were glad to see him go. The man had acquired new weaknesses in this year, and his old ones were already known.

Or let us take Brandt, the unsuccessful and colourless SPD candidate for the chancellorship in 1961 and 1965, who, even after three years as Minister of Foreign Affairs, did not exactly set the electorate alight in 1969. How can we explain the fact that he led his party to triumph in 1972? And how do we explain that a year-and-a-half later, when

Frankfurter Allgemeine

he fell over the Guillaume affair, this merely seemed to be the execution of the people's judgement on him?

These inexplicable and obviously elemental changes will certainly occur in future. The Opposition, whose scope for misfortune is less than that of the government because a party cannot fall much lower than losing power, has more to hope from such changes than the coalition.

But of course the question is whether its slow rise since 1974 is going to continue or come to an end (and perhaps has already reached its end).

In this connection the Opposition should not be alarmed by recent polls, whose small value as indicators is evident. The Bonn Opposition would be well advised to ignore them.

As recent years have shown, it is in danger of becoming spellbound by polls, from the highest to the lowest levels.

Then there is the point valid for all parties: the more time they spend interpreting polls, the less time they have for politics.

The Opposition has quite enough to do as it is. It has to deal with the Filbinger affair, to decide who is to be its main spokesman on economic affairs and give him the opportunity to be recognised as such by the public.

His main task would be to help the Opposition work out economic, financial and social policies which are not always in conflict. It must also find a new direction in the less dramatic area of justice, to prevent it from repeating the error of voting for a monstrosity such as the divorce law.

These are merely the most urgent and by no means the only tasks. This is where the main work needs to be done.

Coalition or non-coalition policies, often referred to as strategy, though important, must take second place. What should this policy be?

Hoping and waiting for the FDP would seem to be out of the question. The union is concentrating its energy on winning an absolute majority, but this does not seem to be immediately attainable. To wait for the environmentalists to finish off the FDP and thereby give the Opposition an absolute majority is no strategy and no policy.

Strauss once seemed to be out on a limb with his proposals that the CDU and CSU should fight separately. Strangely, Kohl now seems to have no objection in principle to this course. The signs are that the union will fling itself into the dangerous adventure of separation at the end of this year or the beginning of next.

Johann Georg Reissmüller

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 2 August 1978)

Free Democrats fight off leader change speculation

Mannheim political scientist Professor Rudolf Wildemann said recently that the Free Democrats were in danger not only in certain Länder but throughout the country.

The FDP was less hurt than the CDU and SPD by the inroads of various environmental groups, but was increasingly losing voters, mainly to the SPD but also to the CDU-CSU. Wildemann backed up these assertions with the results of a poll he has carried out, but the Bonn FDP is sceptical.

The mood of the Free Democrats in Bonn is slowly improving after the shock of the defeats in the Land elections on 4 June. The strange whisperings about the position of party leader Genscher have stopped and the party has forced through most of its view in Cabinet decisions on measures to boost the economy.

After its successful tax offensive, the Bonn FDP leadership hopes that speculation that it is planning to change its coalition partner in Bonn or replace its present leader will stop.

The speculation about a possible CDU-FDP coalition is based in part on Graf Lambsdorff's meeting in the Watergate Hotel in Washington with CDU leader Helmut Kohl, and on a letter he wrote to Helmut Schmidt demanding "increased financial impulses at the beginning of 1979 of ten to 15 billion deutschemarks."

Various versions which spoke of a "gentleman's agreement" between Lambsdorff and Kohl caused some concern, but Schmidt had himself asked for the letter from his Minister of Economic Affairs, even though he seemed annoyed when he received it. The letter summarised the ideas of the Bonn Ministry of Economic Affairs and of a seven-man FDP tax committee on which Lambsdorff and Genscher together managed to overrule the proposals of FDP MPs Frau Funcke and Frau Matthäus.

When Lambsdorff, in a recent radio interview, evaded questions on the FDP's tax policy, this was interpreted as a planned retreat after being out on a limb, although he was merely observing Cabinet discipline, as he confirmed in a later television interview.

Here Lambsdorff said Genscher's position as leader was undisputed and there were some who interpreted this as a particularly subtle form of undermining Genscher's position. Lambsdorff complained that "one really does not know how one should reply to such questions to avoid being misunderstood."

On the other hand, Lambsdorff sped

Hannoversche Allgemeine

up the resignation of former Free Democrat Minister of the Interior Maihofer, refused Schmidt's offer of the post of Minister of the Interior and criticised Genscher in the FDP parliamentary party and the national executive.

When the FDP failed to get into the Land parliaments in Lower Saxony and Hamburg, former FDP national treasurer Rubin and former Düsseldorf Minister of the Interior Weyer said the party needed stronger leadership and Genscher as Minister of Foreign Affairs did not have the time to provide it.

A recent example of Genscher's timetable: on Monday, he spent the day in Brussels, returning to Bonn in the evening to chair a meeting of the FDP executive. Around midnight, he was in discussion with Chancellor Schmidt. On Tuesday, he was at a meeting of the European Economic Community in Brussels. On Wednesday, the FDP executive met and then the Cabinet convened from nine in the morning until midnight.

On Thursday, Genscher left the party headquarters at 6am and flew to New York. On Friday morning he was back, in time for final discussions with Chancellor Schmidt on the budget and tax package to boost the economy.

Despite this tremendous workload, Genscher clearly feels well. One of his close associates, with him for nine years, says Genscher is fitter now than before his illness. In 1977 Genscher went down with serious circulatory trouble after a long bout of flu. He resumed work in January of this year, having lost over 30lb.

Genscher remains a highly popular figure. Various polls put him right behind Chancellor Schmidt and ahead of Opposition leaders Kohl and Strauss in the popularity ratings. And those who compare the time Genscher spends at party headquarters with that spent by his predecessor Scheel will find there are no causes for complaint about Genscher's hours.

What the FDP lacks is someone like Brandt (SPD) or Kohl (CDU) with no government office who can travel around the provinces mobilising party workers and supporters. In the FDP these functions are performed by parliamentary party leader Mischnick (now on holiday recovering from an atack of asthma at the end of May), Frau Funcke or Herr Ronneburger from Kiel.

Of the four FDP Ministers in Bonn, Genscher and Ertl have the bet personal relationship. Genscher finds it easier to get on with Lambsdorff than with his predecessor Friderichs, whom Lambsdorff succeeded as Minister of Economic Affairs nine months ago and whose memory he has almost effaced. Genscher gets on well with Maihofer's successor, Baum, who has only been in office for seven weeks.

Genscher himself appointed left-winger Baum secretary of state in the Bonn Ministry of the Interior nine years ago.

None of these people is in a position to oust Genscher at the moment. His second re-election as party chairman was planned for last month, but postponed because it was too conspicuously close to the Hamburg and Lower Saxony elections. The new date is November 13 at the party national conference in Mainz. Nothing can be done about the fact that there will have been Land elections in Hesse and Bavaria in the previous month.

In Hesse the Free Democrats have 7.4 per cent of the vote and in Bavaria only 2.5. Things are tight enough already and could become even tighter, which is why every wrangle between the environmental groups suits the FDP down to the ground. And when the Hesse FDP hesitated over continuing the coalition with the SPD in Wiesbaden, Genscher gave a prod from Bonn.

Several polls give the FDP eight per cent of the votes at the moment. Party headquarters in Bonn reckon, probably more accurately, that the party would get six to seven per cent throughout the country. The latst issue of the FDP magazine *Liberal* agrees with Professor Wildemann. It says: "The party is obviously, seriously threatened at the moment. Its very existence is in danger."

Rudolf Strauch

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 29 July 1978)

SOCIETY

Human Rights Society under fire from angry members

The executive members of the German Human Rights Society, which informs the public of the problems of people persecuted for their political beliefs, are themselves under attack — not from the authorities, but by their own members.

Berlin members have accused the executive in Frankfurt of working shoddily and ruling dictatorially. The most serious accusation is that new chairman Nitsche has a "murky past" in which the GDR State Security Service plays a part.

Nitsche, expelled from the GDR at the end of last year and treated as a dissident when he arrived in the Federal Republic, took over the leadership of the Human Rights Society in February, replacing long-serving chairman Cornelia Gerstenmaier. He denies members' accusations but he is not prepared to take legal action, saying that to do so would be increase the effectiveness of the claims.

The society has won more and more members. At the end of 1975 it had was 524, a year later 800 and today it has more than 1,300. It has never lacked enemies. GDR commentaries describe it not only as hostile to detente, but as a spy organisation in the pay of foreign interests.

This propaganda is intended to deter GDR citizens from seeking its help. *Those who do so can now be accused of* attempting to copperate with a foreign spy organisation.

There has also been hostile activity against the society in Frankfurt. Towards the end of last year fake letters a fake constitution and payment cards with false account numbers were circulated, and it was implied that the society would in future concentrate on "violations of human rights in the Federal Republic of Germany" — a subtle defamation.

Now there are inner wrangles, which have certainly not been lessened by Cornelia Gerstenmaier's decision to give up the chairmanship and only be an honorary chairman in future. The main differences are about whether material should be meticulously gathered on particular cases, or whether the society should concentrate on the many cries for help from the GDR, even if not able to prove that these are complaints about violations of human rights in the strict sense.

There are wide differences of opinion on the extent to which the society, which claims to be financed from donations and contributions, should work with the Ministry of Intra-German Affairs.

Some say they do not want to become a mere free auxiliary organisation of the authorities and that material should therefore be passed on only in the most urgent cases, for example, when a person who, has, requested help is arrested in the GDR.

Others argue, that it is only possible to help people who write to them if the authorities are brought in. If the society merely allows facts brought to its attention to gather dust in files, then it is effectively working in the interests of the GDR.

The latest move is the resignation of four members of the Berlin working group. Last year Kobelt, the director of the group, resigned. The Berlin statements talk of mass resignations, something the Frankfurt headquarters describes as nonsense.

It is impossible to prove or disprove the accusation that Nitsche "denounced" a family in the GDR to the State Security Service. As only the State Security Service knows the truth and is unlikely to reveal it, Nitsche is in the invidious position of an accused who can only hope that his words and not those of his accusers will be believed.

In her letter of resignation, one Berlin member asks how it can be explained that "dissident" Nitsche was a member of the GDR Socialist Unity Party (SED) *for 30 years and was party secretary at* the economics faculty at Rodewitsch, which is affiliated to East Berlin's Humboldt University.

Nitsche replied that when the party offers a teacher who has been in trouble with it a party post, the teacher can hardly refuse. It was wrong to say he had been a member of the SED since it was founded in 1946. He had only been party secretary for two years, from 1974 until his resignation in 1976.

Nitsche said inaccuracies of this kind showed how unfounded the accusations against him were. He countered by asking what interest a woman from Berlin, who came to West Berlin from the GDR illegally only a year ago, could have in blackening the reputation of the chairman of the Human Rights Society.

Nitsche's name became known in the West when he addressed an appeal to President Carter in March 1977. Nitsche was then arrested and, after five months imprisonment in which no sentence was passed, he was deported to West Berlin last year.

Nitsche says his inner opposition to the SED began in 1967, when he protested at incompetent officials expressing opinions on his work. He was immediately brought back from the GDR Culture Institute in Cairo where he was working and transferred to a post as lecturer in Hungary.

In 1971 Nitsche, a German literature specialist and former professor at the Humboldt University, was made director of the Rodewisch working group on Marxism-Leninism. There he was forced to work intensively on Marxist-Leninist theory and this was where he found he could not accept the basic principles of the ideology.

Bernhard Heimrich

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 29 July 1978)

Computer engineers combine to warn on data abuse

A group of computer engineers, shocked at the public's ignorance of potential abuses of computer-stored data, has founded the German Association for Data Protection, with headquarters in Rochusstrasse, Bonn.

They will exchange and provide information among themselves and help people with complaints, consulting a lawyer if necessary. Experts in the field take the association very seriously. Professor Bull, the first Bonn Commissioner for Data Protection, has welcomed the members as allies.

The association's purpose is to shake the public out of its indifference to the amount of information about them stored and passed on. It wants to ensure that the Bonn Act on protection against the abuse of computerised data and similar laws in Hesse and the Rhineland Palatinate do not remain paper tigers.

The association is not solely concerned with so-called sensitive data on personal matters (the new registration is to contain details of everyone's personal medical history).

It also wants to make sure that people's addresses should not be readily available: there are people out to make profits out of addresses, and the association points out that people who do not want unsolicited mail (mainly advertising) coming through their letterboxes can write to the Bundespost Advertising Department in Frankfurt, the Vehicle Registration office in Flensburg and the Association of Address Publishers in Oberursel and tell them not to pass on their addresses.

Many private individuals simply do not know enough about the possibilities of protecting themselves against invasions of privacy.

At the first meeting of the association's scientific advisory body, the Bonn Commissioner for Data Protection spoke of an amendment to the Bonn Act. He wants to get rid of the fee charged for providing details of stored information. In industry this can often cost DM20 and more.

The association has had some even more unpleasant experiences with the income tax offices. Two executive members wanted to know what details the local tax office had on them. The tax office replied that it was probably not obliged to reveal the information, and that if it did so it could require a fee of up to DM500 — a vivid illustration of the importance of Bull's demand for the abolition of fees.

Data protection Commissioner Bull said the main tasks for the future were to keep a critical eye on medical data banks, personnel information and supervision systems and the "flow of data" in the administration of justice.

All is far from well in the credit sphere when it comes to data protection. Bull is sceptical about a special data protection Act here. If an incorrect item is stored and then passed to the banks it could have very unpleasant consequences for the customer, who may be unjustly labelled a poor credit risk.

The association quotes the case of a man caught travelling on public transport without a ticket. His name was stored for years in a data bank and in all this time he was treated as credit risk even though he was above suspicion.

Another example of the danger of incorrect information being stored and passed on electronically: two insurance agents were unable to understand why, despite many applications, they could not find jobs. The reason: their ex-employer had passed on incorrect information to central offices of the insurance industry and the building societies.

Citizens are not the only ones with far too little interest in the information on them. Public bodies do not take enough care with the details they have about citizens. Address firms, banks and information companies can find out marital status, birth dates and academic qualifications from the local councils without much difficulty.

A Hesse local council once passed on paper containing uncoded personal details from the local register to a kindergarten for the children to use in painting lessons. Thus many a citizen was able to read information on the back of children's drawings which was none of his business.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 29 July 1978)

THE ECONOMY

Bonn fires starting gun for race against recession



The fight against the world recession in the Federal Republic of Germany has begun, following the measures adopted by the Bonn government after three days of discussion: an increase in the budget for 1979 and a special programme to boost the economy.

These moves can be seen as the last act for the time being in the economic play which began with the meeting of the European Council in Bremen, continued at the Bonn world economic summit, and ended with the announcement of the new measures in Bonn.

All three acts are an attempt to forge weapons against the world economic crisis, which began with inflationary fever after the oil crisis late in 1973 and has paralysed the world economy ever since.

Despite the summit conferences at Rambouillet in 1975, San Juan in Porto Rico in 1976 and London in 1977, there are still too many unemployed in the world and economic growth is still too low. Many countries attempted to alleviate their plight by blocking imports from neighbouring countries.

At Bremen a brave attempt was made to end the currency confusion in Europe. Of the world's three economic giants — the USA, Japan and Europe — Europe is at a particular disadvantage. It does not have one currency but a total of 14, seven in the European Economic Community alone.

This currency diversity acted as a brake on growth. If a reasonable and stable European currency system could be worked out on the basis of the Bremen plan, 1979 could see the beginning of a new phase of currency policy which could lead to more growth.

At Bonn the major industrial nations agreed to harmonise their economic policies to combating unemployment, lack of growth and the tendency towards protectionism. All of them made declarations of intent at the summit.

The decisive give-and-take was between the Germans and the Americans. Carter made proposals to save energy in the USA. Chancellor Helmut Schmidt then committed himself to this country's part of the deal. By the end of August Bonn promised proposals to increase demand and stimulate economic growth. These measures will cost the state up to one per cent of the gross national product, up to DM13 billions.

This promise has now been kept by the Bonn Cabinet. Apart from preventing a trade and currency war, the summit strengthened the heads of government, who have to submit their propsals to coalition partners and national parliaments.

It is evident that the Free Democrats have had a decisive influence on the shape of Bonn's new economic package. There were differences from the start as to how to spend this extra DM13 billion.

Minister of Finance Matthöfer wanted to use most of it for state investments and to encourage private innovation. Minister of Economic Affairs Graf Lambsdorff wanted most of the money to be used to reduce taxes. Graf Lambsdorff got his way. The larger coalition partner has for the most part met the wishes of the smaller one.

If the draft laws on the new economic plan are passed by the Bundestag and the Bundesrat this will mean less tax to pay: single taxpayers earning DM48,000 a year and less and married couples earning up to DM96,000 will benefit in 1979, as will employers now paying a wage sum tax independent of profits which is an obstacle to taking on new employees. The trade tax load will be lighter from 1980 onwards, too.

It is natural enough to be pleased about the tax cuts, but the question remains whether the combination of these elements in the government programme is going to increase growth and cut unemployment.

Scepticism is appropriate in the face of the nine booster programmes of the part. (An exception here is the extended maternity holiday, a social component in the package). None of the previous programmes helped or employment would be far better than it is now. Why did they fail? In Karl Schiller's day as soon as the state pumped money into the economy, the outlook became more optimistic and things improved.

The reason why this does not work today is that the structure of our economy has changed radically in a number of vital places.

The same amount of money pumped now no longer has the same effect because there are now innumerable brakes on growth. For one, the population is decreasing. The number of births has halved in ten years and this has important consequences for the entire economy, the labour market and the social insurance funds.

The trend towards the welfare state has meant that a wage increase of 100 deutschemarks costs the employer DM160 and the worker only gets DM60 of this in his wage packet.

Many markets for industrial goods are saturated. The distribution of income in favour of wage earners (and the resultant drop in profits) and of public spending has increased. Technological progress has slowed down. The protection of the environment has become more expensive.

World economic influences are also mostly negative: the dollar shock, the various trade restrictions, competition from developing countries. Then there is the tax system which is a disincentive.

This is where the new government programme begins. A correction of our tax system which increases incentives for initiative and work and improves the chances of growth is a step in the right direction.

Filling the state coffers

The most important tax contributions for 1977 (in thousand million DM)

Tax	Amount
Salary and wages tax	90,8
Value added or turnover tax	62,7
Income tax	35,5
Business tax	23,0
Oil tax	19,2
Corporate tax	16,8

= 83% of all tax receipts

The increase of value added tax from 1 July 1979 does not counteract this beneficial effect. The shift of burden from income tax, which eats away more of your salary the more you earn, to value added tax in which there is no such progression, is not a disincentive to hard work and initiative.

These structural attempts to remove impediments to growth mark the beginning of a new direction in economic policy. Mere injections of money no longer help. Confidence is more important than money, and it is easier to create confidence by reducing tax than by state investment.

Rudolf Herlt

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 29 July 1978)

What the tax cuts tell about politics

Even today, many people believe the state is generously doling out gifts when it makes tax reductions. This thinking in the categories of the authoritarian state is widespread, and not only among politicians.

Politicians often tend to forget that their decisions were responsible for, or at least contributed to, the original increase of the tax load. That a situation can then arise in which tax reductions are inevitable is not a sign of political cleverness, even though often presented this way. These critical observations ought to be borne in mind when we make a political — as opposed to an economic — assessment of the recent Cabinet decisions.

The first point to be made is that Cabinet proposals have for some time now, tended to look different when they emerge from the legislative procedures. The government's thin majority means that even small groups have enough influence to force changes in legislation.

Besides, the Opposition majority in the Bundesrat means it too has a powerful influence on the final shape of legislation, Helmut Kohl and Franz Josef Strauss, the leaders of the CDU and CSU, were invisibly present at the Cabinet meetings, although they will only be physically present in a few months' time, when the decisive phase begins.

The SPD-FDP coalition had to make decisions which would be popular and therefore could not be reversed, but at worst complemented, by the Opposition.

The proposal to reform wage and income tax by the beginning of next year certainly meets these requirements. Kohl and Strauss cannot criticise the quality of government proposals here; the most they can do is to criticise quantity.

The same applies to the tax reliefs for industry. The question of how great they will be and when they will come into effect has still to be worked out, but the basic direction is clear from the Cabinet decisions. The final form these reliefs take need not be a cause of dispute within the Social Democratic parliamentary party.

Helmut Schmidt avoided the problem of tensions within the coalition with a double trick. He did not choose among Minister of Economic Affairs Lambsdorff, Finance Minister Matthöfer or Research Minister Hauff — instead he opted for all directions by combining the programmes of each side and increasing the overall volume.

The fact that the programme is to be spread over two years was a technical and a tactical relief. The Social Democrats cannot complain: an income tax reform benefits a large part of their clientele and they do not need to abandon their demands for more investment and more financial aid for research. The extension of paid leave for mothers was a Social Democrat demand. Both sides wanted increases in family allowances.

Graf Lambsdorff, who in this case (at least in the eyes of the public) has usurped party chairman Genscher's leadership, can with justification talk of the complete success of the FDP. The Minister of Economic Affairs got his way over the Finance Minister over the increase of value added tax and when this should start. The FDP needed this success to restore its self-confidence, shattered by recent crises.

The Land elections in Hesse and Bavaria are just around the corner and the Chancellor knows that he must allow his coalition partner scope if he is to hold the coalition together. According to the latest polls, the FDP is in danger of failing to take the 5 per cent hurdle in Hesse as well as Bavaria.

The Cabinet decisions on tax have formally resulted from economic necessity. They are officially described as the keeping of the German promise at the recent Bonn economic summit, but they are essentially instruments of coalition policy. The purpose is to colour the rather pale image of the government (Helmut Schmidt excluded) to give the FDP a new profile without harming the SPD, and to combine the tactically opportune with the electorally acceptable.

In these circumstances, which he certainly foresaw, FDP chairman Genscher cannot have found it difficult to assure Schmidt that in the now unlikely event of a CDU victory in Hesse (which would give the Opposition a two-thirds majority in the Bundesrat), he would continue the Bonn coalition with the SPD.

There is no real security for the continuation of this coalition. Defeats make one sensitive. Even FDP Land chairman Helga Schuchardt, the spokeswoman of the FDP left wing, said seven weeks after her party's disastrous defeat in the Hamburg Land election: "In future we cannot accept that the coalition must survive at all costs and the party must play second fiddle." These words can be interpreted in many ways.

Hans Reiser

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 28 July 1978)

■ BUSINESS

Bundesbank warns builders: 'Raise prices and boom ends'

Otmar Emminger, president of the Bundesbank, has warned the German building industry that if they implement their proposal to put prices up by 15 per cent, they will end the present boom in the building industry for which they have waited so long.

The warnings to builders are well-founded and apply with equal force to other industries. Emminger's timely prophecy applies to the whole economy, more strongly bound up with the success or failure of the building industry than ever. Builders, the construction industry and others depending on it are those most favoured and most affected by Helmut Schmidt's new economic policies.

A large part of the DM14 billion programme to boost the economy will lead to a direct increase in demand in the building industry. One should not become fixated on the sum. It contains tax concessions and tax reliefs which multiply as soon as the citizen gives commissions, so that he can profit from the concessions.

The same applies even more strongly to the DM4.8 billion energy-saving programme. The building industry will carry out the insulation and install the new heating systems envisaged in this five-year plan. And here the rule applies that every deutschemark in direct subsidies and tax concessions leads to four deutschmarks of investment.

The two programmes together amount to DM20 billion, but they could stimulate investment worth several times that in the building industry alone.

Building contractors always complain that they are the first hit by economic recession. They benefit most when the state wants to get the economy going, but as soon as the policy begins to bear fruit the state puts the brakes on. There is a danger that this could happen in this case.

It is possible that it has already happened to the two government programmes, with the important difference that it is no longer a case of cyclic developments. The more growth has slowed down in the western industrial societies and the more moderate growth rates have become, the less spectacular cyclic developments have been.

This is an almost self-evident assertion. Ever since 1973 economic experts have been saying that the low point of the recession has been reached and things can only start looking up. While everyone was still talking about a crisis, the world economy had entered a basically new phase.

It developed moderately, but regularly. The constant talk of crisis and of the upswing to follow prevented people from grasping this fact.

This does not mean that the Bonn government's proposal to boost the economy is a waste of time. It is an attempt to get us out of a low point in the economic cycle. This is a misinterpretation, but nonetheless the measuros are a step in the right direction: it will release demand pent up for some time for non-economic reasons.

The effect of this release of demand can be tremendous and may look as if a powerful upward cycle has started. Those who do not believe this can observe a similar phenomenon in the highly important motor car industry.

The industry was a victim of the oil crisis in 1973. Just as the boom in the industrial countries was giving way to a phase of steady and normal development, the whole promising process was interrupted by the oil crisis.

The car industry depended on people buying new cars every two or three years. Now they were reluctant to buy. A motor car, thanks to rust and the high standards set by the Ministry of Transport tests, cannot last forever. The longer the owner postponed buying a new car, the more urgent the need became. Every year in which the purchase was postponed increased purchasing potential by an almost mathematically predictable amount.

Then as soon as doubts about the future were calmed and petrol prices stabilised the biggest wave of car buying Europe has ever experienced began. The dam had burst but it did not lead to new customers buying of motor vehicles as would have happened in a normal trade cycle; it merely made up for what had been put off.

The same is going to happen in the building industry and this is why Helmut Schmidt's economic policies here are sure of success. Here, too, potential house buyers held back after the 1973 oil crisis, a caution caused by the extremely high mortgage rates insisted on by the Bundesbank. The potential house-owner had no desire and no money to build a house.

A large number of building companies want under, others saved themselves by planned but drastic lay-offs, and a large number of building workers moved into other industries which guaranteed regular work.

The severely reduced building industry managed to keep going, hoping to make up for the years of slump all at once. This is an understandable reaction, but politically wrong. The patience of the industry was further tried by people's reluctance to build despite the more favourable credit conditions since 1976.

In the last phase of this period of waiting a powerful swell built up. Then the following occurred in rapid succession: many of the flats built built at the beginning of the 1970s were sold at give-away prices; the mortage rates in the middle of the year were more favourable than at any time since the war; the state pumped money into the building industry.

All this came suddenly upon a servorely reduced industry, which soon reached the limits of its capacities in technical facilities and skilled building workers. The building boom bomb exploded — but it was powder gathering for some time and not new demand as in the case of a normal boom.

This is the situation in which, as said above, an important economic success can be achieved even though the measures are based on false assumptions. This success can be both short-lived and superficial, as price developments may rapidly prove.

The other measures in the government's programme amount to a slight redistribution of burdens, a gentle adaption of the tax systems to the changed circumstances.

The tax reform, the increase in children's allowances and the decision to make 60 the retirement age are all reasonable in the circumstances. It is hardly surprising that the coalition agrees on them.

The Opposition's criticism should not be dismissed, even if for reasons different from those of the majority of its members. The Opposition wants to see a smooth transition between proportional and progressive tax and wants the tax system to be more just to families, even if this favours those with high incomes more than those with low.

Above all, the Opposition wants to see medium-sized businesses, on which much in our economic structrue we depend in the next few years, freed from tax impediments which restrict movement and flexibility.

The CDU/CSU are justly critical of the trade tax which flows into the coffers of the local councils. The capital gains tax penalises by a second form of income tax the profit-striving of businesses which the state is trying to encourage; the wage sum tax penalises labour-intensive branches; the trade capital tax penalises those who want to enlarge their companies by taking up credits.

To sum up: basically these programmes have done no more than absolutely necessary and, as for the economy, it stands and falls this time with the building industry. The whole thing could, however, rapidly get out of control. On the one hand, the state has to watch the limits of its additional indebtedness. On the other, the Bundesbank will put a damper on any boom, however fine, as soon as it begins to affect prices.

Ernst Wittenbrock

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 6 August 1978)

Companies: call for information

The Monopolies Commission has proposed that companies be required to publish more information about their activities, which would mean that people would in future know more about the ties between the banks and industrial and commercial companies.

Companies would be required to say in their annual reports which banks had shares of five per cent and more, to specify how many proxy votes the banks held, and to give details of how the banks used their mandates on company supervisory boards.

The Monopolies Commission presented this second set of proposals to Bonn Minister of Economic Affairs Graf Lambsdorff in Bonn recently. The function of the commission, whose members are independent specialists, is to supervise the application of the Monopolies Act (particularly over mergers). Where necessary it makes proposals for improving the law.

In its first set of proposals two years ago the Monopolies Commission suggested that in future banks should only be allowed to hold a maximum of five per cent of total capital. The commission has now repeated this proposal, which neither the government nor parliament have taken up.

The proposals that companies be required to give more information are new.

The commission, chaired by Ernst-Joachim Mestmacker, analysed percentage shares, proxy voting rights and supervisory board mandates held by banks in the hundred largest German companies. According to it, "the number of shares held by the ten main credit institutes and in particular by the big banks is considerable."

This influence is increased by the banks' right to vote by proxy. In four of the ten biggest companies the banks had proxy voting rights for over 25 per cent of the total capital. The banks also had representatives on more than 75 supervisory boards.

In the case of the banks proxy voting rights, the commission says "there are conflicts of interest arising from the clash between the right to vote and the fulfilment of the banks' normal functions."

The Monopolies Commission has no immediate proposal for solving this fundamental problem, but believes that "the publicising of these conflicts of interest" is necessary and should take the form of more information in annual reports.

As for mergers, the report says concentration in German industry has increased, particularly in industrial groups with high turnovers. The strongest tendencies gowards concentration were in the steel and light metal, the electrotechnic and clothing and the paper and paper mache industries.

The commission says companies in which the government has a large stake, such as Veba and the RWE, were particularly active in mergers.

The report devotes a section to the 100 leading German companies, who have all shown growth. Within the industrial super league, the companies near the top of the table have grown more rapidly.

Companies from the top 100 were involved as buyers in 436 mergers, over half of all the mergers reported to the Federal Cartel Office.

The companies bought were mainly small and medium-sized. Many of the mergers did not need investigation because the turnover of one was less than DM50 million. The Monopolies Commission repeats its proposal that the "small firms clause" should be dropped, so that mergers of this kind can be examined.

This point is not in the Ministry of Economic Affairs' draft proposals, which only envisage a narrower definition of small firms.

The Monopolies Commisson devotes a section in its report to the concentration of the press, and complains that it was unable to get a clear picture because of lack of cooperation from large sections of the industry. It suggests that it should be given a right to this information.

On the new photo-setting technology the commission says that its introduction "will no more mean an increase in the present trend towards concentration than it will lead to a reduction of pluralism in the press."

Heinz Murmann

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 2 August 1978)

■ ENVIRONMENT

Warning: this lake may be in danger of dying



Lakeside land is growing scarcer and the lakes themselves are crowded, while holidaymakers, day-trippers by the coachload and housing developers are invading the shoreline, a conference held in Seebruck, on the shores of Bavaria's largest lake, Chiemsee, has been told.

The quality of lake water was steadily deteriorating, and sanitary regulations, purification systems and even influx control seemed to make little difference, the meeting was told.

"Experience shows that even a virtual ban on leisure developments, and nature conservancy listing or beauty spot status are not much use in preventing further depredation on these attractive parts of the countryside," Munich social geographer Reinhard Paesler told an interdisciplinary conference on "Lakes in the landscape: significance, safeguards and redevelopment."

The conference, attended by specialists, local government officials and politicians interested in the environment, saw what happens when development runs riot.

Seebruck, at the northern end of Chiemsee, has a yacht harbour built some years ago without planning permission, Professor Haber told the meeting.

Now there are several hundred boats at anchor, parking lots and promenades where once there was a reed bank where dozens of species of bird bred.

Chiemsee, Bavaria's largest lake, with an area of 80 square kilometres, or 30.88 square miles, is an alarming example of the increasing burden lakes are having to bear.

Its 39 harbours hold more than 3,000 yachts and motorboats, not to mention excursion steamers, Professor Haber's Institute of Landscape Ecology estimates.

A further 1,600 boats are beached at 35 points along the shoreline and 1,700 arrive on trailers at weekends.

In good weather threre is one boat per acre on the lake, as opposed to 0.72 on Lake Constance, and many bays are awash with windsurfers.

Many craft serve as holiday homes; inevitable in view of the shortage of building land. Holidaymakers sleep and cook on board and put their garbage into the lake.

They run the risk of heavier fines now Bavaria has introduced new shipping regulations, but the problem is to catch offenders in the act.

There are also 18 camping and caravan sites around the lake, and rivers that flow into it are full of industrial effluent from Tyrol and chemical fertiliser from farmland.

Only three villages and the two famous islands in the lake have modern sewage purification plant, and even this equipment is no longer enough.

Other local authorities rely on sand drainage, with the result that 115,000 tons of phosphate a year flow into the lake — and 80,000 tons is the maximum Chiemsee can handle biologically.

Zoologist Professor Otto Siebeck outlined the repercussions. Bavaria's largest and most popular lake, once the resort of kings, is ageing rapidly and fast approaching a state of eutrophy.

Eutrophy means rich in dissolved nutrients, such as phosphates, but often shallow and seasonally deficient in oxygen.

Algae flourish near the surface of Chiemsee, but the lower reaches are deprived of oxygen, which means slow but sure death for flora and fauna.

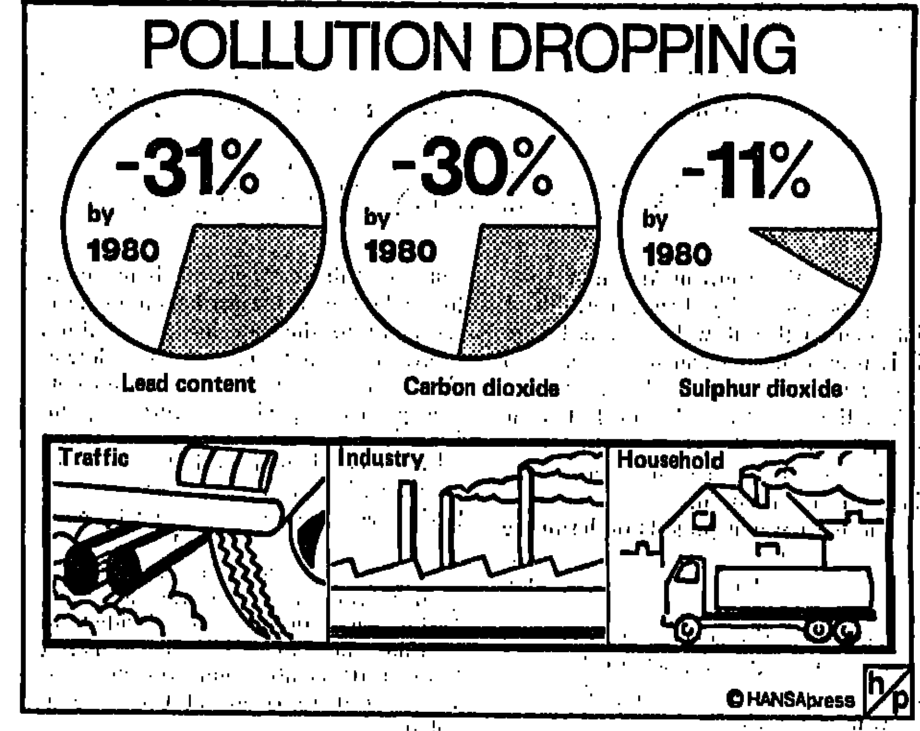
"Intensive care is needed to make good the damage man has done to the lake," says Professor Siebeck.

Burgomaster Seebauer of Prien has long been upset by complaints from holidaymakers who mistake the lush brown algae for a carpet of excrement.

"The eutrophy of Chiemsee has reached such a state that developments which may prove irreversible are well under way," he warned the conference.

Local authorities have been told that an enormous and expensive sewage treatment circuit might yet avert the lake's biological demise, but many drains will need laying on the lake bed in order not to despoil the shoreline.

The estimated cost is DM125 million at today's prices, and the system is not expected to be completed much before 1993.



Overcrowding and ecological hazards seem to bear out speculation that tourism risks being its own downfall,

Fourteen per cent of tourist accomodation in Bavarian hotels and *pensions* is in towns and villages on the shores of lakes and Reinhard Paesler thinks he knows why:

"Lakes powerfully attract all social categories in equal measure and all the year round. They attract both nature-lovers, who go for lakeside walks or drink coffee at lakeside cafes, and more active holidaymakers who prefer swimming, sailing and in winter ice skating."

A survey compiled for Tyrol by Innsbruck University reaches similar conclusions. Austria may claim that its mountain lakes are crystal-clear, but half the region's 53 resort lakes are eutrophic and replete with the germs of about 30 infectious diseases.

Yet Tyrolean lakes are growing increasingly popular. This summer a previously unknown village on the shores of Achensee ranks third in popularity among the region's holiday resorts.

Drastic action and compromises will undoubtedly be needed. Reinhard Paesler advocates a solution similar to the Bavarian "Alpine Plan" with its A, B and C zones.

Around the larger lakes he sees zones with satisfactory facilities, zones intended primarily for hikers and nature-lovers and zones reserved for plant and animal life.

Karl Stankiewitz

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 31 July 1978)

Less pollution says Bonn

The Bonn Interior Ministry's press release on the pollution White Paper sounded a note of defiance combined with pride.

"To get results on the public's behalf you must aim at and reach realistic targets," it said.

"The programmes put forward by Green Lists and ecological pressure groups are full of generalisations but make no specific recommendations.

"They convey the impression of an alternative that does not really exist. This is not serious policy on the environment, whereas the federal government pursues environmental policies of moderation and consistency."

Moderation and consistency are certainly the hallmarks of this first major review of the war on noise and atmospheric pollution.

The White Paper testifies to moderation inasmuch as the figures hardly warrant jubilation, and to consistency inasfar as only the hope that the latest regulations will have some effect over the next few years can possibly justify the tone of subdued satisfaction.

The Bonn government's environment measures have only achieved measurable results in four sectors:

— Dust levels are down, from one million tons in 1970 to 560,000 tons in 1975.

— Lead pollution has also been reduced since the 1976 regulations on lead in motor fuel.

— The noise levels of aircraft landing and taking off and of construction machinery are down perceptibly.

— Water in rivers and inland waterways is a little cleaner now that 62 per cent of the population use drains that are attached to sewage purification plants (as against 35 per cent in 1969).

Other improvements that have occurred are laudably admitted in the White Paper to have two causes.

One is that the output of toxins has remained constant because of the recession, the other that toxins are more evenly distributed: less in built-up areas, more in previously unpolluted areas.

But noise is increasing and is the most pressing problem. The report also emphasises that the cost of anti-pollution regulations has not paralysed industry as forecast, so more could clearly be done.

(Die Zeit, 28 July 1978)

Hospital to get rid of incinerator

Hanover Medical School is shortly to inaugurate a pressurised steam steriliser costing nearly DM500,000 to replace the incinerators hospitals still use to dispose of germ-ridden garbage.

Black billows of smoke from incinerator chimneys are a problem for hospitals all over the country, so keen interest is being shown in the Hanover prototype.

Sterilised garbage can be collected by the local authority, whereas untreated hospital refuse has to be incinerated separately by the hospital to reduce the risk of epidemics.

The medical school's incinerator was originally designed for waste paper, laboratory animal droppings, dissected animals, germ-ridden waste and at most five per cent plastic.

But disposable plastic waste has increased enormously, now accounting for half the waste incinerated, and even more at peak periods. And when plastic burns there can be no mistaking the acrid black smoke.

Infected waste such as disposable syringes, plaster casts, bottles, needles, bandages and laboratory material is usually partly made of PVC.

When PVC is incinerated chlorine, a heavy, greenish-yellow gas that can be extremely dangerous, is released and is disposed of very slowly under natural conditions.

Another synthetic material frequently found in hospital garbage is polystyrene, which only burns at extremely high temperatures at which glass melts and clogs the incinerator grates.

This is why the medical school's existing incinerator has yet to be approved by the local authority's safety department. More than once the fire brigade has been summoned because smoke and heat warning devices sounded the alarm, although there was no real danger.

For reasons of both cost and efficiency chemical and physical sterilisation were ruled out, as was incineration. The Hanover steriliser will rely on saturated steam at 134°C and 3.2 bars above atmospheric pressure.

Several other hospitals in the area plan to install steam sterilisers and hospitals in other parts of Germany are considering using the process, which costs only half as much as incineration.

Klaus Gerber

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 29 July 1978)

■ RESEARCH

Helios keeps up the watch on spot news from space

Helios, the German-American solar probe, has relayed such a wealth of information that it will be years before it is fully evaluated and its relevance to a new scientific view of the sun assessed. Helios A was launched on 10 December 1974, Helios B on 15 January 1976, both from Cape Canaveral. Both are still in elliptical solar orbit.

The ten research projects on board are mostly still functioning well, and scientists are hopeful that data will continue to be relayed.

When the twin satellites were launched there was little solar activity, but sunspots are now nearing their peak in the 11-year solar cycle.

A follow-up satellite was originally intended to investigate this phase of maximum activity.

At a showing of research results so far, scientists at Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm, the main Helios contractors, admitted that some of the more surprising data had come more by coincidence than design.

One was that launching of Helios B was delayed by technical hitches, with the result that the second satellite was put into orbit relatively close to the first.

This has made possible a most interesting comparison of readings, especially near the sun.

Scientists will not be surprised if a number of experiments, and maybe even the relay system, malfunction shortly. But they will no longer attribute failure to overheating at the perihelion, or nearest point to the sun in the satellite's orbit. They now expect breakdowns, should they occur, to result from cold damage at the aphelion, or furthest point from the sun.

Data relayed from the Helios satellites to the DFVLR aerospace research institute's space control centre in Oberpfaffenhofen, near Munich, have proved most satisfactory in both quantity and quality. So the Bonn Research and Technology Ministry has decided to continue subsidising the programme. A team of 10 scientists and 10 technicians are assigned to Helios at Oberpfaffenhofen.

A further two dozen of each are working on Helios experiments at university research departments around the country. Data relayed from the satellites to the space control centre can be printed out immediately. Two to three months later it is available in evaluated form.

Information from the two Helios missions is unlikely to benefit the ordinary citizen directly, although solar wind may affect terrestrial weather, leading indirectly to improved long-range weather forecasting.

But Rainer Schwenn and Helmut Rosenbauer of the Max Planck Extra-Terrestrial Physics Institute in Garching, near Munich, and the Max Planck Aeronomics Institute, Lindau, feel that the increasing frequency of sunspots brings about serious changes in the structure of solar plasma. They reckon they are close to a hitherto unknown aspect of the relationship between solar wind and the earth's magnetic field.



Helios, the German-American space probe, is still sending back a flood of data from its space watching station. (Photo: AEG-Telefunken)

Fritz Neubauer of Brunswick University noted a spin-off from the use of Förster magnetometers on board Helios to measure field strength and the direction of low-frequency magnetic fields in interplanetary space.

The same device, he says, is to be used on board the Galileo Jupiter probe due at the end of the decade. A similar device is also used in applied geophysics to prospect for geothermic strata.

Two experiments from the Max Planck Nuclear Physics Institute, Heidelberg, have begun to shed light on the density and composition of cosmic dust. This entails the use of a zodiacal light photometer and a micrometeorite analyser. Eberhard Grün has reported from Heidelberg on the chemical composition of micrometeorites that evaporate on a gold-plated tungsten sensor.

Helios's 10 square metres or so of outer skin are bombarded daily by some 10,000 particles of this kind. Micrometeorites make minute dents in the skin but do not damage the solar cells or adversely affect the satellite's sensitive measuring equipment.

Interplanetary dust, which evaporates from comets, is low in density (say one gram per cubic centimetre). In structure it resembles snowflakes.

Greater concentrations of cosmic dust are responsible for the phenomenon known as zodiacal light, a diffuse pyramid-shaped glow seen in medium latitudes in the west after twilight and in the east before dawn, in spring and autumn respectively.

It can be seen all the year round near the equator and is caused by polarised sunlight diffused in part by free electrons and partly reflected by solid dust particles.

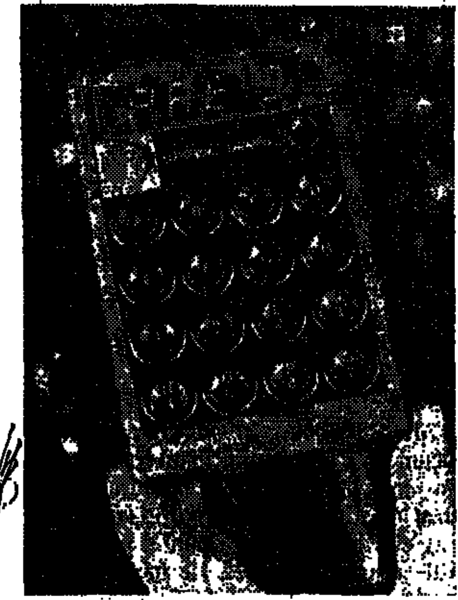
Three experiments in progress on Helios have also registered high-energy eruptions of radio waves and gamma radiation from galactic space. Their sources have been precisely located by triangulation.

Rudolf Metzler

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 28 July 1978)

■ MOTORING

Ali the automatic driver takes to the road



The Ali keyboard, similar in appearance to a calculator, is used to punch the destination code before starting a journey. The code, consisting of three letters and a number, is relayed to the computer for running instructions on the easiest way to get there.

Three construction workers are busy digging holes in the autobahn, 189 in all, between Recklinghausen and Dortmund in the Ruhr as the start of a trial project to install an automatic pilot in every car.

The saw screeches as it marks out a line 2.50 metres long cut four centimetres deep into the asphalt.

The workmen slot wire into the grooves, which form a 2.50-metre square, and refill them with asphalt. Then they move to the next site, between two and eight kilometres further.

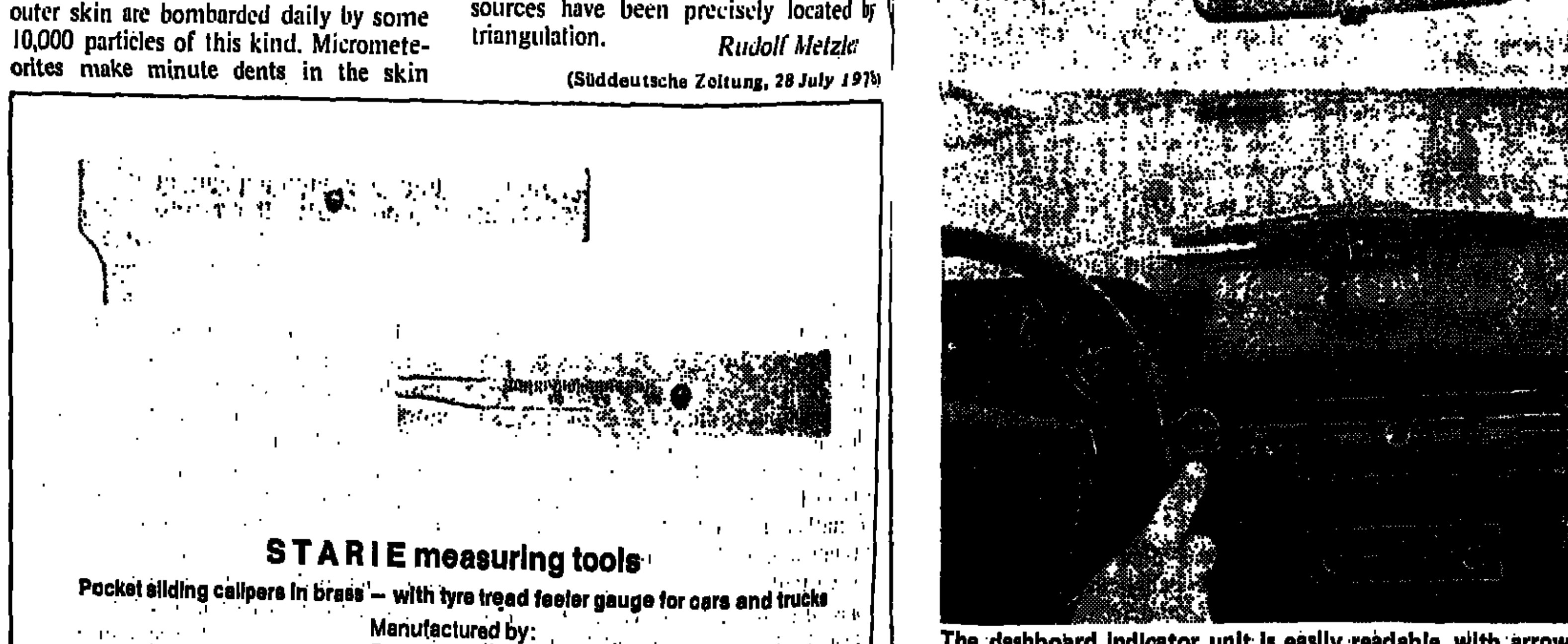
By October they will have laid the groundwork for Ali, a German acronym standing for "motorists' directional and information system," along a roughly 100-km section of autobahn.

The aim is to automate navigation, if not motoring, and enable drivers to dispense with map-reading. The wiring in the road surface will also relay news of road conditions and traffic density.

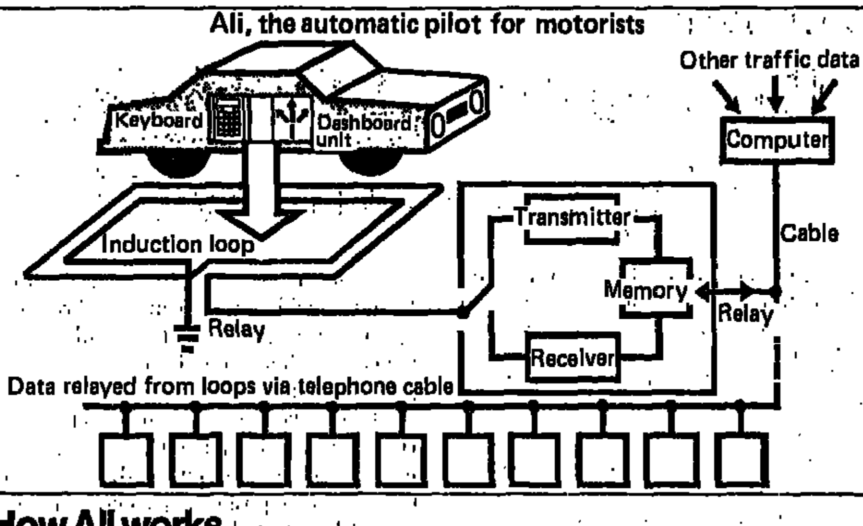
The system requires place names to be replaced by code numbers, similar to post codes. The motorist is able to dial his destination on a dashboard terminal.

As the driver approaches the next junction, or autobahn slip-road, the dashboard device bleeps and an indicator flashes, instructing him to turn right, left or drive straight on.

Direction indication is kept up-to-the-minute by computer evaluation of traffic reports, so the motorist can be guided to his destination by the fastest and most convenient route. Ali, the motorist's automatic pilot, also gives warning of fog or black ice and warns drivers too close to vehicles ahead. Blaupunkt, the car radio manufacturers, unveiled the revolutionary system late in 1974. It consists of induction loops (the wiring in the road) linked to control units and a central computer. Cars are equipped with a small aerial under the rear bumper, the dashboard terminal and a transceiver



The dashboard indicator unit is easily readable, with arrows to indicate left, right or straight ahead at the next junction. Additional information, in words or symbols, indicates speed limits, fog or black ice or traffic jams ahead. (Photos: Blaupunkt)



How Ali works

Loops in the road surface relay to roadside receivers details of how many vehicles are using the road, their speed and destination. This information is fed to a computer, which works out where traffic jams are likely to occur, when and for how long. The computer maps out alternative routes which are fed to the loops and relayed to receivers in passing cars in fractions of a second. Indicators then flash on a dashboard device telling the driver to turn left or right or drive straight on at the next junction. Map reading is no longer necessary.

When a car drives over one of the loops, information is exchanged even if the vehicle is travelling at 300km/h (200mph). The car transmitter queries the road-surface transmitter and the road-surface transmitter relays the route information supplied by the computer.

The loop registers every vehicle that passes, relaying to the computer the number and category. The computer works out traffic density and estimates the time by which a jam may be expected at any point.

It automatically supplies every other vehicle going that way with an alternative route. Traffic is evenly spread around the roads, congestion, or at least the expected jam, never occurs.

"*Once routes are suitably selected,* the road network can be put to better use," says Peter Brägas of Blaupunkt's research division. "Little-used alternative routes are allotted their share of the traffic."

Ali so impressed Volkswagen that the company decided to join in the project in 1976. "We, too, had been wondering how to help the motorist of the future to make best use of the available road network," says Walter Zimdahl of the research division.

Blaupunkt and Volkswagen jointly received financial backing last year from the Bonn Research and Technology Ministry, which agreed to invest DM12m in the Ruhr autobahn experiment.

Hoesch-Boesefeldt, consulting engineers in Aachen, are responsible for the loops and the computer. TÜV Rhineland, the agency normally associated with two-year roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles, is supervising the whole project.

"The 100-km trial section will be ready for use by the end of the year," says Blaupunkt research engineer Klaus Ottenroth.

Next spring 400 motorists will have their cars fitted out with automatic pilot equipment for a 12-month trial.

In Japan, a similar, although not quite so sophisticated, system has already gone a step further. Since mid-1977 a Comprehensive Automotive Traffic Control System has operated over a 30-square-kilometre area of south-west Tokyo. The principle is much the same as for Ali.

The Japanese system is to be installed permanently in Tokyo next year, so Germany trails Japan in this sector of automotive development.

At present the Aachen engineering consultants are busy installing an Atlas-Krupp computer to handle traffic forecasting and work out alternative routes.

In mid-1980 Bonn will decide whether to install the Ali automatic pilot system throughout the 6,000-kilometre autobahn network at a cost of DM345m.

Motorists who would like to use the service would then need to spend about DM350 on equipment.

There looks like being no shortage of volunteer test drivers. The most laconic application so far was from a Herten motorist. "I drive the autobahn from Friday to Sunday," he wrote.

Hans-Peter Rosellen

(Welt am Sonntag, 30 July 1978)

■ THE ARTS

Bayreuth's bold *Dutchman*: sailing close to the wind

There were fewer big names at the opening of this year's Bayreuth festival, but the interest of the public was as great as ever.

The festival opened with a new version of Wagner's *Flying Dutchman* directed by Dresden director Harry Kupfer. The stage set desginer for this opera, Peter Sykora, and the conductor Dennis Russell Davies, to be Stuttgart's new general director of music, were also debutants at Bayreuth.

Tannhäuser, *Parsifal* and Patrice Chereau's version of the *Ring* complete the festival programme, Despite all the protests about new approaches to directing Wagner, all the tickets were sold out months ago. The new version of the *Flying Dutchman* was controversial and there was a loud battle between the boos and the bravos.



Simon Estes, Bayreuth's Dutchman: "a powerfully raw and guttural baritone." (Photo: Festspiele Bayreuth)

Wagner experts have long agreed that the central figure in the work is not the pale and terrifying ship's captain but Senta, his saviour. And the central focal point of the entire opera is then logically Senta's ballad. Harry Kupfer and Peter Sykora attempt to make this clear in their version.

Two year's after Chéreaux, Bayreuth regulars are again confronted with a version which leaves the path of the accustomed and the tolerable and goes off the rails. Kupfer's version, however, hurtles full speed on to a track leading nowhere – and there is no way of shunting him off it.

The version of the opera played here is unusual. Kupfer and conductor Dennis Russell Davies use the original Dresden version which Wagner later rejected. This not only means the continouous form of the dramatic ballad and therefore of the subtle correspondence between the central theme of the opera and the work as a whole. This is familiar enough from recent Bayreuth productions. This version also entails the abandonment of the redemption scene at the end and of the theme of redemption in the overture, and it also means the transposition of the Senta ballad to A minor, which Wagner only chose originally because of Schröder-Devrient's deep voice.

Finally this means retouching! In the orchestra and a loss of refinement, but a gain of originality, brusqueness, *Sturm und Drang*.

Given this version, the logical thing to do would have been to drop the operatic overture altogether and reconstruct the short prelude as Wagner originally intended.

But this version does not follow the laws of logic. Harry Kupfer is not directing the rough and raw early work but the precise opposite: a psychodrama on *a post-Freudian level of consciousness* and dominated by the influence of Ibsen. This is a great deal all at one. Far too much.

In Kupfer's version, we see Senta in her spinning room during the overture. She is dreaming, her hair tossed by the storm. The first act, in which her father meets the Dutchman, occurs only in her imagination. The walls of the room are transformed into reefs and cliffs and in a state of dream-like ecstasy Senta hovers over the raging water.

The dream-like nature of this scene absolves Kupfer from the need to be realistic — so no objections please to Captain Daland in rock coat and top hat (costumes by Reinhard Heinrich), to the Dutchman's ship looking like a pair of folded hands and the strange movements of the sea. In dreams anything can happen.

For Kupfer the dream opens the flood gates of symbolism: the Dutchman slips from the red opening of the ship's belly as if from the womb. After Wieland Wagner's version of the Dutchman tied *to the sea and his mother we have* Kupfer's version of Senta with a Jocasta complex.

In the second act Kupfer adopts a more realistic approach in places. The spinning room is real, as are Daland and Erik. The Dutchman is not. Daland brings a nameless and silent suitor into the house who stands by as a third man while Senta sings a duet with her imaginary Dutchman.

The end we expect comes to pass: Senta's madness becomes more and more extreme, she embraces the image of the Dutchman, in act three we see choruses and dances of chalkwhite girls and sailors.

It is as if she is haunted by the memory of a past she has spent in a psychiatric clinic. Finally, she jumps out of the window. Perhaps she is redeemed as she lies dead on the pavement, stared at by the people of the little town. But the Dutchman certainly is not. The contradictions within Kupfer's version are obvious. The mystery of redemption which is the basis of the six following variations, from Tannhäuser to Parsifal, is reduced to a mere clinical and psychiatric case study. Kupfer's direction goes against the text. There is not a single passage to justify his concept of reality and imagination on two levels. The insights of the director are given precedence over the striving for rivetting, dramatic theatre and this is a serious criticism of Kupfer's version. The characters singing on the stage whom we could have found so different fail to move us. Instead we are presented with the appalling last hours of a lunatic.

Even unsuccessful versions can have their merits. The false paths on to which Kupfer has strayed are instructive; they are not mere jokes, mere striving for effect, they are motives, ideas and grounds from Wagner's opera which have been thoroughly and obstinately worked out.

The fact that they do not do justice to the *original* is another matter altogether. Bayreuth is a Wagner workshop and it must be able to afford bold failures. This failure could be more helpful for future versions than many a safe and conventional version. Bayreuth's thoughtful Wagnerians probably enjoyed this version, the riddles it posed and those it solved.

It is far more difficult to find anything enjoyable about the musical side of this performance. The performance of the orchestra is dull, lacking in tension, insignificant. We only notice Conductor Dennis Russell Davies by the irritating habit, common among musicians, of playing loud passages fast and soft passages slow.

The orchestra has very little to offer and is not well balanced. The woodwinds are virtually inaudible. In many respects this version obeys familiar operatic conventions, but to conclude from this that the orchestra should be reduced to a mere accompanying function is not right.

The main parts are also sung by Bayreuth first-timers. Simon Estes does not *sing the Dutchman's* part nobly but with a powerfully raw and guttural baritone which successfully avoids the usual extremes of heroic sentimentality and excessive bel canto.

Lisbeth Balslev's soprano Senta captures the restless, flickering madness but not the victorious illuminatory power of Wagner's music. Robert Schunk with his magnificent straightforward tenor is an excellent tenor, Francisco Araiza a not quite so excellent helmsman. Anny Schelm sings the part of Mary resolutely and Matti Salminen convinces as the powerful and domineering Daland.

However, none of the soloists can compete with the superb vocal range of Norbert Balatsch's chorus.

Reinhard Beuth
(Die Welt, 27 July 1978)



Scene from *The Sleeping Beauty* choreographed by John Neumeier for the Hamburg ballet festival. (Photo: Fritz Peyer)

Neumeier's gift to Hamburg

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

All the main opera houses have their annual ballet festivals, often no more than a resume of the works performed the previous season.

The Berlin and Düsseldorf festivals are pale and monotonous; in Stuttgart the young generation of choreographers is under too much pressure; the Munich festival lacks leadership. Hamburg is the only exception.

After Hamburg choreographer John Neumeier arrived from Frankfurt his rise was meteoric, not only because of his great creativity and his skilful, inventive way of winning over a public previously little interest in ballet. He has a dramaturgic concept which he is continually refining and questioning.

The fourth Hamburg ballet festival which ended recently was an illustration of Neumeier's mastery. Wide though his range is, there are nonetheless two main emphases: one is the classical ballet tradition and the other is the concentante and symphonic ballet which is open to associations.

Neumeier completed his choreography of Tchaikovsky's works with his version of The Sleeping Beauty at the festival. His version of the Nutcracker in 1971 was unusual: he threw the dusty old story overboard and transformed it into a homage to Marius Petipa, the perfecter of the classical ballet.

In Swan Lake (1976) Neumeir combined the basic idea of unattainable love in the original with the fate of Ludwig II of Bavaria.

In his version of The Sleeping Beauty, he tried to get beneath the layers of pomp, bravura and acrobatics which have accumulated in the 90-year history of the performance of the work and get down to the basic idea. He also attempted to transpose the fairy tale into the present.

Peter Appel, was director of the Cologne Institute of Ballet until two years ago, since then Neumeier's first *maître de ballet* and now director of the recently founded ballet school of the Hamburg State Opera; played a key part in this performance: Thoroughly familiar with the history of the performance of this work, Appel cut out all the superfluous elements in Petipa's original choreographic concept of 1890 and restored the original artistic principle. Neumeier then brought the whole thing up to date.

The ballet does not begin in a castle but in a wood being blasted by a storm. Here a young man in blue jeans, the Prince Desire of past performances, has a vision of a girl, Aurora, into whose world he is transported in a dream, threatened by the power of the wicked fairy, protected by the forces of good.

At the end, he dances right out of this fairy world, sinks exhausted and disillusioned to the ground and sees a real life girl sitting on a bench. He turn his attentions to her.

Much has been changed. The Sleeping Beauty is not put to sleep for a hundred

Continued on page 11

■ PEOPLE

Werner Finck: laughing in the dark

Referring to the Nazi ban on his Berlin cabaret, *Die Katakombe*, Werner Finck, the film, television and radio performer who died recently in Munich at the age of 76, said: "Yesterday we were closed, today we are open. If we are too open today, we will closed tomorrow." Fink, the "wandering storyteller from Görlitz," took over the Berlin cabaret in 1929 and was so outspoken in his satirical criticism of the Third Reich that he was sent to a concentration camp in 1935. He later wrote humorous books and his memoirs, entitled *Alter Narr, was nun?* (Old fool, what now?).

DIE WELT

In December 1938 the staff of the *Berliner Tageblatt*, in a mood of folly, asked prominent contemporaries if the Germans had a sense of humour. The answers were long-winded and evasive, mostly empty and true to the party philosophy.

The reply Werner Finck gave was a redeeming masterpiece of tongue-in cheek humour in the manner of Till Eulenspiegel. He wrote: "Humour? Yes, oh yes, of course we have! Or when you say we, do you mean your esteemed newspaper with its 'estimated' readership of 90,000. In that case, I would answer with an emphatic yes. The question alone proves it.

"Or do you mean us when you say we. In that case, I can also answer in the affirmative. We have humour when we are among ourselves. But only when we are among ourselves. That leaves the question of whether we have got a sense of humour about ourselves. Here, too, the answer is yes. Only those who are above things can have a sense of humour about them. I will elaborate later about what is meant by this."

Every sentence was open flouting of the regime. Every word was so bold that the reader must have had a shudder of disquiet as he laughed about it. Finck had already been in a concentration camp.

Unfortunately, Goebbels understood Finck's humour all too well. He put another ban on Finck and replied testily to his article with an editorial in the *Völkischer Beobachter*.

This was typical of Finck. He kept and expressed his sly sense of humour when to do so was literally to risk one's life. His best time was, paradoxically, his worst time: humour as a form of resistance. He was often caught and had to pay the price. But he survived. It was a relief to hear the jokes of the German Wilhelm Tell with his sly laugh.

Finck was a master of the camouflaged speech. In the days when cabaret was a highly dangerous way of making a living, Finck made it into a active political weapon. He walked the tightrope alone, literally risking his neck. He was a character and a master of words and deserves a monument to his memory in Munich. Werner Finck was unique.

He always seemed so innocent, harmless and disarmingly naive. He continually seemed to lose track of his thoughts, but this was deliberate. What he wanted to say, he said indirectly. He hid his best punchlines modestly. One had to think along and work things out for oneself to follow the man with infinite humour.

Finck, born in Görlitz, did a great deal of acting but always remained himself. The smiling artistry of his puns and word-plays is recorded in his books. He travelled around like a cheerful preacher.

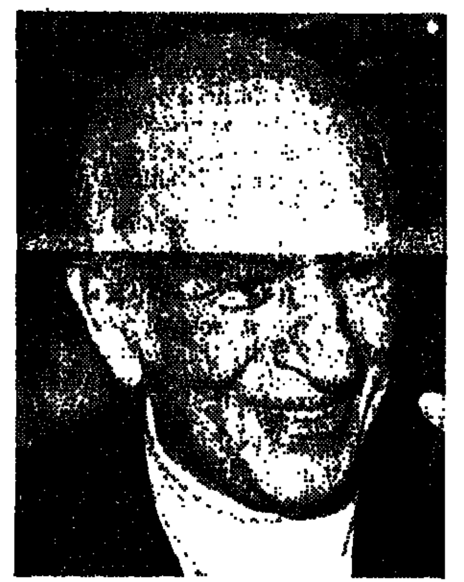
It was a delight to hear him recounting autobiographical incidents so effortlessly and humorously, yet his hesitant words somehow captured all the danger, the bitterness and the dubiousness of the tough times in which he lived.

He always winced when people called him a comedian. This was something he hated. Nor was he a humorist. He was too subtle a satirist, too committed to be just that.

He always took his jokes in dead earnest; they were the only things he could take seriously. He was a philosoher, a rare modern apostle of the Greek Democrites.

He cannot be replaced.

Friedrich Luft
(Die Welt, 1 August 1978)



Werner Finck: comedian whose jokes were the only things he took seriously.

(Photos: Sven Simon)

Günther Rennert leaves opera memories of brilliance

The director Günther Rennert died recently in Salzburg at the age of 67, having just seen his new version of *Der Rosenkavalier* performed at the opening of this year's festival.

Der Rosenkavalier had been greeted with rapturous enthusiasm by the perceptive Salzburg public in an atmosphere reminiscent of the golden days of Empress Maria Theresa. Rennert was much admired and respected by audiences and the singers who performed in his productions.

He had played a part right up to the last moment. No-one realised that his severe asthma complaint, which had plagued him all his life, would now exact its tribute: an embolism of the lungs.

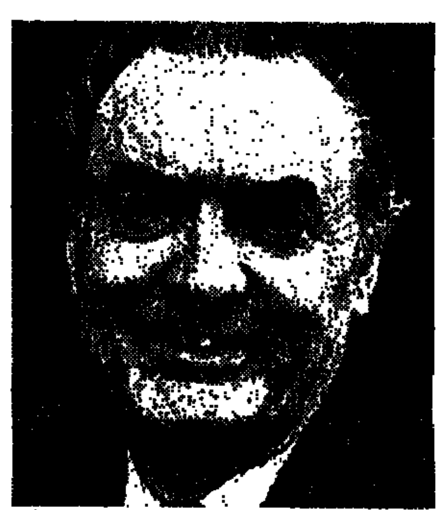
Günther Rennert was one of a trio of directors who, in the 1950s and 1960s, made German opera into what it is today: living musical theatre. The other two were Wieland Wagner and Walter Felsenstein.

This living musical theatre has of course nothing to do with the extravagant fantasies of the young generation of opera directors. For Rennert, the work was the centre of all his efforts. He considered the job of the director to be to do justice to it, no more and no less.

There was only one exception in Rennert's case: his adaptations and productions of Rossini's operas, which he revived for the German stage. He allowed the actors to play according to mood, often swaying from the original. Theatre became a humorous end in itself in these productions.

Stylistically, Rennert came in between Walter Felsenstein, at one time his teacher, and Wieland Wagner, oscillating between realism in which every detail had to be absolutely correct and abstraction pregnant with ideas.

Rennert knew that opera could not be realistic — and yet it could not dispense with realism altogether. Rennert was a master of mixing the realistic and the abstract — indeed he had no rival. His Salzburg version of *Cosi Fan Tutte* was for many years the finest work in this festival, the perfection of the director's art. His direction was unobstrusive yet it brought out the perfection of Mozart's work.



Günther Rennert: one of a trio who made German opera into living musical theatre.

The other emphasis in Rennert's career was the modern opera. Here he worked tirelessly and persistently and often achieved his ends long after others had given up the struggle. He was the inspiration behind more local and world premieres than it would be possible to enumerate.

Rennert will be remembered as a director, though he was also theatre director of the Hamburg State Opera from 1946 to 1957 and of the Munich Opera from 1967 to 1976. His qualifications for these posts were impressive: he had a doctorate in law and was the son of the director of an Essen steelworks. Rennert ran these opera houses not as a manager but as a sensitive artist and a benevolent father to his ensemble.

As the opera became more and more international, this attitude became increasingly problematic. What in the 1950s had been considered the special characteristic of the Hamburg Opera seemed provincial 20 years later.

Rennert ignored the signs of the times and relied too heavily on the repetition of past successes. His more ambitious performances did not seem to come off as often as before.

His production of *Der Rosenkavalier* at this year's Salzburg festival was a reminder of the brilliant successes of earlier days.

Reinhard Beuth
(Die Welt, 1 August 1978)

Continued from page 10

years by a prick of the spinning wheel, but by the thorns of a rose the wicked fairy, disguised as a suitor, gives her. Chamberlain Catalabutte is transformed into a dance master, symbol of the tension between the spirit of the 19th century and that of today. The plausible rendering of the extremely difficult switches in time and of the change from dream to reality is a masterly achievement in itself.

As always, Neumeier introduces a wealth of stimulating historical, psychological and philosophical associations. Yet everything remains clear and comprehensible. He tells the tale of love overcoming the powers of evil without a trace of banality — as a parable which we have to live up to today.

The subtle transitions from classical to modern styles of ballet are remarkable. They are not introduced for their own sake, they always have a precise dramaturgic function. The inclusion of the usual divertissements in the main narrative structure is equally impressive.

The overall optical impression results from the combination of choreography and the stage sets, designed by Jürgen Rose. Rose developed these to harmonise perfectly with Neumeier's choreographic concept. The scenes vary from dark thorn thickets to wide open spaces.

This Hamburg version of the Sleeping Beauty is spectacular in its bold simplicity, even though on occasions musical stimuli to the choreography are missed. Reinhard Schwarz conducting the Hamburg Orchestra does so with fitting meticulousness.

The ensemble and the soloists also play an important part in the success of the whole: Francois Klaus/Kevin Haigen as Desire, Lynn Charles/Marianne Kruuse as Aurora, Max Midinet as the wicked fairy, Colleen Scott as the good fairy and Kevin Haigen/Ivan Liska as the Blue Bord.

The naturalness of the entire ensemble plays a more important part than virtuoso individual performances. On the whole, there was a significant improvement in the quality of the dancing, evident in the course of the festival in Mahler's Third and Fourth Symphonies, A Midsummer Night's Dream and Schubert's Violin Quintet in C major, as well as in the Tchaikovsky ballet.

Natalia Makarova, who joined the American Ballet Theatre from the Leningrad Kirov Ballet in 1970, was one of the main attractions. She danced a main part in Neumeir's Nutcracker and in the second act of Swan Lake. She also danced with Patrick Bissell in an exciting premiere of the elegy to the first part of Tchaikovsky's third suite for orchestra.

Makarova is a classical ballerina par excellence, but her she demonstrated her versatility and her mastery of modern dance. She had to portray an introverted woman in deep pain and longing for and at the same time rejecting the partnership of a solid and reliable man.

The Hamburg public responded warmly to Neumeier's efforts and those of his ensemble. Will theatre director Christoph von Dohnanyi do the same?

Helmut Schieler
(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 26 July 1978)

■ HEALTH

Doctors call for a new deal for night shift workers

DIE ZEIT

German doctors, psychologists and social scientists are convinced that the theory that night and shift workers become accustomed to their routine is a myth, and that employers must act if the number of "work ailments" and early retirements because of illness is not to increase.

The philosopher Ortego y Gasset once remarked darkly that it did not look as if man would ever get used to what "grinds down his existence" — work, in which he is "painfully submerged". This is a discouraging reflection and applies with increased force to shift and night-work.

Occupational scientists have concluded on the basis of numerous factory studies and laboratory experiments that workers do not get used to shift and night work. Even those doing night work for years only adapt by keeping to the patterns established during night work during leisure time.

It is hardly surprising that the belief that night workers adapt still persists. According to the World Health Organisation most night workers regard their stomach and indigestion problems as more or less normal. They postpone going to the doctor more than most other categories of workers.

They also want to prevent their day shift colleagues from having more to do because of their absence and so play down complaints. Only in the case of older workers on night work for a long time do absence through illness increase.

The price paid for is a permanent struggle against the waking and sleeping rhythm. According to WHO, the working capacity of a night worker is similar to that of a day worker who has not slept the night before. Error analyses show that the number of mistakes is greatest at about three in the morning when strength and muscular coordination reach their lowest level.

Eighty per cent of shift workers asked about their sleep after a shift said their light sleep was often interrupted by the noise of children playing or traffic, something hard to avoid in this country. The percentage who reported consistently poor appetites was almost as high.

The human organism can adapt, for example, to a new time zone after a plane journey. In the case of regular night work, for reasons not known, this sychronisation does not work or does not work adequately.

Munich occupational physiologist Dr Wolfgang Ehrenstein has the most convincing explanation. He suspects that the rhythms prescribed by the nervous system must be in balance with social behaviour to accomodate the shift of phases. But this essential behaviour modification is very difficult "because as a rule our leisure time needs are not phase-shifted".

So far the necessary conclusions have not been drawn from these realisations. Experts attribute this to the fact that night workers are required by their employers to perform just as well as day workers. It even seems that the amount of night work is increasing.

According to Professor Volker Volkholz of Berlin, the amount of shift work has increased by about 40 per cent in the past though it has decreased in traditional shift work industries such as mining and the iron and the chemical industries. The increase is the result of demand in the food industry, tourism, public houses and hospitals. Experts expect that this trend will continue in the next ten years.

Jörg Münstermann, Dortmund sociologist and director of The Research Group on Work and Health Ltd., believes it would be nonsensical to demand a general ban on shift work. He says if legislation limited shift work companies would be forced to introduce more overtime. The result would merely be that one form of stress would replace another.

Overtime regulations need to be tightened up as it is. The trade union leaders, by no means interested in encouraging debate among their members on such issues, carefully avoid the subject.

Any measure to reduce overtime would result in a drop of income for hundreds of thousands of families, and so the question is less a matter of making working conditions more humane than of financial considerations. This recalls the words of Freiburg medical sociologist Jürgen von Troschke, who said: "Health is not an end in itself."

There have been proposals on solving the problem. Munich occupational scientist Professor Heinz Schmidtke believes in the long run it would be better to shorten night shifts than to pay night shift supplements as compensation for additional stress.

Night shifts should be adapted to the body's six-hour biological rhythms, rather than the present eight.

Jörg Münstermann has another proposal which be would complement Schmidtke's. "Certain things could be made illegal — such as piecework at night or doing two shifts or bouts of overtime following each other." If both these proposals were put into practice much of the damage done could be reduced.

In 1977, 5.7 per cent more workers suffered from occupational illnesses than in 1976. At present there are 47 recognised occupational illnesses. And if the fears of the Association of German Psychologists come true, the 48th will be "silent attrition as a result of stress during shift work."

The psychologists demand legislation on staff planning to ensure that "the psychic health of the employees is taken into account."

The Work Security Act, in force for three years, requires precisely this of the 6,000 company doctors in this country. They are required to play a part in the planning and design of places of work, a task full of pitfalls.

The first is that they often do not know the precise requirements for a place of work. Then there is the problem of the division of the company doctor's time.

Professor Hettinger of Wuppertal University has worked out that generally only a quarter of a company doctor's time is spent on examinations. The rest is devoted to problems of occupational medicine. One works councillor put it more succinctly: "The doctors ought to look at the company first and then the men."

It seems there is a great need for more occupational medicine. The number of "ground down existences" is not getting any smaller and the number of people retiring early on grounds of illness and the number of illnesses caused by shift work are increasing.

Peter Jennrich

(Die Zeit, 28 July 1978)

Group fights to better lot of check-out workers

Several groups in North Rhine-Westphalia have taken up the cause of workers who man the check-out tills in supermarkets.

The "Emancipation Working Party" in Moers, North Rhine-Westphalia, recently held an information campaign on behalf of the check-out workers. The group consists of rerresentatives of the Young Socialists, the Free Democrats, and the trade, banks and insurances trade union.

Five hundred and ten people signed a petition against the conditions in which check-out workers, usually women, demanded that they be improved. The petition was sent to the local management of Aldi and plus, the two main supermarkets. Up to now, only Aldi has replied in a vague and non-commital letter.

The impetus for the campaign came from Dr Theodor Peters's report, financed by the Bonn Ministry of Labour, on the work of check-out women for the Trade Supervisory Office of Westphalia in Bochum.

The report days that in the rush hours from Friday to Saturday lunchtime, when often up to 50 per cent of the week's sales takes place, cashiers have to add up and pack up to 500 kg of products within half-an-hour, without any mechanical aid.

One of the women at the information evening said her left arm still hurt when she thought of when she worked in a supermarket. Another cashier, delighted at the solidarity so many people has shown, immediately signed a demandthat so-called "packing check-outs" should be abolished as the first step towards improving of working conditions.

Jutta Hänke, one of the initiators of the information campaign, told *Frankfurter Rundschau:* "These reports are not just there to gather dust or be published in medical journals. They must also be used to make the public aware of the dangers to health at these check-outs.

"As working conditions at these packing check-outs are the most unfavourable, we have decided that the first step is to get rid of them."

Packing check-outs are those at which the cashier has to take the goods out of the basket or shopping trolley herself, ring up the till and then put the goods into another trolley or basket.

There are about 150,000 cashiers in self-service shops and supermarkets. Peters's report concluded that as a rule these check-outs do not correspond to ergonomic and occupational medicine requirements.

The Berlin Land Office for Work Protection found 3,500 causes for complaint in 700 shops in an investigation on 1975. There were draughts at 878 check-outs, 802 were inadequately covered, 689 were below the prescribed temperature of 21 degrees, and at 197 there were double plugs or loose electric wires.

There were 1,075 causes for complaints about the stools the cashiers sat on: 388 either did not have backrests or did not have adjustable backrests, 188 did not adjust for height, 389 did not have rounded edges and 100 did not have enough knee-room.

The few scientific analyses of stress on cashiers show that they suffer from general exhaustion, headaches, sleeplesness and pains in the small of the back. Lack of energy, pains and numbness in the shoulders, neck and arms, elbows, hands and fingers on both sides are other affects.

A long term observation programme among 116 cashiers showed that 16 became incapable of working, 15 had to find other jobs and 48 had to have their working hours reduced. Doctors found that these women suffered from inability to grip, weakening of muscles, pains in the neck, losses of sense of touch, loss of ability of grasp and hold objects and a drop in overall body temperature.

The physical strain on cashiers is the result, as anyone in a supermarket can see, of constantly having to turn from the goods to the till and back. They often have to do this standing up for many hours.

The physical and nervous stress is the result of having to concentrate all the time. The cashier has to know the prices of the goods or read the often very small stickers, press the right buttons, take the customers' money and give the right change — all as quickly as possible.

It is worth adding that the maximum monthly wage of a cashier is DM1,600 gross, and she can only earn this after eight years.

The trade, banks and insurance trade union has reacted positively to the Peters report and the Moers information campaign, urging cashiers in other towns to start similar campaigns, regardless of whether unions or other groups are the initiators.

The union chief executive has set up a working party of occupational scientists, works councillors, cashiers and wage experts to work out measures for the abolition of packing check-outs and proposals for better wage agreements.

Wolf Günter Brügmann

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 24 July 1978)

■ EDUCATION

New pre-school teaching helps foreign children

The Hamburg Education Authority is holding special pre-school classes for children from "socio-culturally deprived backgrounds" and the children of foreign workers.

The classes begin three or four months before the children start primary school, and the timetable contains "free and educational play, artistic and musical activity, accustoming the children to social forms and the creation of natural speaking situations."

Hildegard Rumtorf, who teaches one of the classes, explains what this means in practice: "I spend most of my time teaching the children the simplest expressions. The little Turks in particular do not speak a word of German when they start the classes."

Phrases and words such as yes, no, please, thank you, fetch me this, give me that, come here, what's your name, look, show me, I would like and so on are constantly repeated and practised.

Hildegard Rumtorf does not speak Turkish: "How could I with my timetable?" she asks. So she has to resort to all kinds of illustrative methods to get her points across. She uses diagrams, plays families, gets the children to dress and undress dolls, takes them shopping or to the zoo.

In these situations she finds out if the children have understood what she has been trying to teach. A little Turkish boy called Erkan wanted to buy a banana. He knew his teacher was listening and his classmates waiting and wanted to say a complete sentence. Laughing and pointing to a salad, he said: "My name is banana."

On such occasions Hildegard Rumtorf realises only too vividly how well her charges have understood the difference between "my name is Erkan" and "I would like a banana."

In Erkan's group no one laughs about mistakes like this any more. But the problems which arise from different mentalities and approaches to bringing up children are far more difficult to overcome.

Children brought up very religiously are appalled when German children casually unpack and eat their bread and sausage. Hildegard Rumtorf tells of a Turkish girl who would not take off her shoe after she had hurt her foot. And it sometimes happens that pupils dirty their pants because they are afraid to ask to be excused.

Erkan will start school on September 4. This year in Hamburg 4,780 Turks, 1,271 Jugoslavs, 1,163 Protuguese, 1,058 Greeks, 823 Italians, 629 Spaniards and 2,812 children of other nationalities start their education.

Since the end of the 1950s Hamburg has faced the problem of integrating foreign children into the German school system. The children of foreign workers are required by law to attend school and never before have there been so many.

In Altona, for example, 50 to 70 per cent of all first year pupils are foreigners. The corresponding figures for some schools in Wilhelmsburg are 90 to 100 per cent.

Hans Joachim Schwenke, in charge of the foreign children department of the Hamburg Education Authority, explains this development, which seems incompatible with the ban on recruiting foreign workers in 1973 and the decline in the economy.

"Many workers have brought their children over to Germany, since family allowances have only been given to children living in the country. And they make sure their children go to school more now, because the payment is conditional upon their children being registered at a school."

The fact that the number of foreign children at German primary schools is now so high is also an opportunity. With larger numbers of children of one nationality in a class, it is easier to teach effectively.

Hamburg is going to set up at least 29 classes of children from the same country. They will be taught by one German-speaking teacher and one teacher who speaks their mother tongue until they have reached the standard where they can be integrated in an ordinary German class.

The advantage of classes partly in the mother tongue is that the children do not drift too far from the school system in their own countries and find it easier to adapt if and when they return home. In this respect, Hamburg is following Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria and North Rhine-Westphalia.

Most foreign children will continue to be taught in normal classes or special preparatory classes. Erkan will be taught in a mixed class and will only have the possibility of taking extra German lessons to improve his knowledge. In the afternoons, like all foreign children, he will go to "mother tongue classes."

German teachers are not happy about the system, but agreements have been reached with the embassies of the countries concerned. The idea is that the children do not lose touch with the teaching system at home.

Erkan's teacher Hildegard Rumtorf is now wondering whether she should learn Turkish: "Often I do not know which children need more attention. If I knew Turkish, it would be a lot easier." She is as well prepared for these extreme teaching situations as her colleagues who have been teaching for years.

The Hamburg Education Authority wants to improve the situation and from next autumn will provide special courses for teachers of foreign children. The trouble is that only 40 teachers can take part. The rest will have to get down to "German as a foreign language", improve their knowledge of the socio-cultural backgrounds the children come from and make the best of textbooks and teaching aids.

Gesine Froese

(Die Zeit, 28 July 1978)

'Independence' tops poll on education

A poll by the Emnid Institute in Bielefeld shows that 48 per cent of people in West Germany believe the main aim of education is to make children independent and able to use their free will.

Forty-six per cent of people said the most important aims were love of order and hard work. Only 12 per cent chose obedience and submission.

The institute says the answers clearly show that different age groups have different priorities. Among the 14 to 19-year-olds, 79 per cent chose free will and independence and only 19 per cent love of order and hard work.

Almost the complete opposite was true for the 65 age bracket: 64 per cent opted for love of order and hard work and only 27 per cent for free will and independence.

According to the poll, different professional groups have different views on education. Workers (48 per cent), pensioners (70 per cent) and housewives (48 per cent) gave love of order and hard work priority, while white collar workers (50 per cent), civil servants (56 per cent), self-employed and farmers (49 per cent) and those studying (78 per cent) put independence and free will top.

dpa

(Kieler Nachrichten, 26 July 1978)

Kindergarten vital say parents

NRZ NEUE RUHR ZEITUNG

Nine out of ten West German parents believe their children ought to attend a kindergarten and two out of three mothers believe learning at primary school is easier as a result.

This is the result of a poll done by educationists at Constance University and published by the Bonn Ministry of Education.

The reasons why parents of children in this age group think so highly of the kindergarten are:

- Fifty-seven per cent of mothers say children become independent sooner through growing up with other children.
- Fifty-six per cent believe children can learn things at kindergarten they cannot learn at home.
- Thirty-three per cent of mothers reckon that children's imaginations can develop more fully under expert tuition at kindergarten.

Parents awarded minus points to some aspects of education. One in ten mothers (11 per cent) thought kindergarten teachers brought their children up too freely.

Many parents would be glad to help at the kindergarten: 82 per cent of mothers and 56 per cent of fathers said they would be prepared to spend more than an hour a week.

The distance between home and kindergarten is an important factor in attendance. If the distance on foot is only 500 metres, 85 per cent of the children attend. If the kindergarten is more than three kilometres away, the figure is only 47 per cent.

Hans Josef Joest

(Neue Ruhr Zeitung, 27 July 1978)

Homes silent over sex

Only 25 per cent of young people learn about sex from their parents, according to a poll among 120,000 readers conducted by the teenage magazine *Bravo.*

Thirty two per cent learn from literature on the subject, 23 per cent at school and 14 per cent learn from their friends.

(Die Welt, 20 July 1978)

■ THE LAW

Legal aid: does means test ordeal prevent justice?

A few years ago there was a television documentary on the shortcomings of the West German health service provocatively entitled: "Because you are poor you will have to die earlier".

The film played a big part in making the public more sensitive on health issues, and there is no doubt that a number of improvements have been made in recent years.

Public opinion could well do with being sensitised in another area of everyday life no less important for the individual: the law.

Frankfurt judge and critic of the legal system Theo Rasehorn sums the problem up as: "Because you are poor you will be dealt less justice."

Policemen were asked a while ago whether all accused stood an equal chance. Eighty-three per cent replied that rich people as a rule fared better. Only 11 per cent disagreed.

If you have enough money you will get a fair deal in the end; if you lack the cash, there is no point in seeking redress through the courts. Why bother when you are bound to lose your case?

This is an argument frequently advanced in the context of the "little man" and the law. And without dramatising the results of opinion polls, there is a similarity with the health service, in that the only thing the ordinary man fears more than the law is the dentist.

"Certificates of proverty are issued in Room 5," the doorman at the local authority office says. No matter how friendly he may look as he says these chilling words, the young woman who made the inquiry predictably turns on her heel and bolts.

She is no state to hear his advice that she will need her identity card, statement of income and proof of expenditure on rent, gas and electricity, water and other recurring items.

She is, as it happens, a 34-year-old divorcee with two children who is having trouble with her landlord. Her former husband is not paying maintenance regularly and she is in arrears with her rent.

She looks like being given notice and cannot afford a lawyer. She has heard that she may, under certain circumstances, qualify for legal aid, but will be humiliated by the red tape she has to go through to qualify.

The certificate of poverty is only the beginning of the paper chase. It is merely a document certifying that she has qualified for legal aid after a means test.

But the term "certificate of poverty" is a reproach to Gudrun, our 34-year-old divorcee from Hanover.

And it strikes terror into the hearts of Germans in much the same way as "means test" strikes terror into the hearts of Britons who need to convince officials that they are penniless before qualifying for national assistance, welfare, legal aid and a host of other things.

It is not just that Gudrun feels self-conscious about disclosing her financial circumstances to some civil servant. The cause lies deeper.

The law is more inclined that other institutions, such as the educational system, to regard poverty as a purely economic problem.

The law caters for the less well-to-do rather than for the underprivileged. It does not acknowledge the existence of a poverty gap.

Last year 15,000 civil actions were handled by the county court in Hanover. Legal aid was sought in only 372 cases but almost invariably granted.

Does this mean that only one in 40 qualified for legal aid? Hardly. It is more likely that many of the other 39 were unaware that they might qualify.

The law is not much assistance to the majority of people, who feel it is unapproachable and see the legal system as a cold, unfeeling machine and a labyrinth in which the non-lawyer is lost.

Most people would sooner have nothing to do with the courts. They do not associate the legal system with any idea of securing justice.

Gudrun, 34, need not have been discouraged by the doorman at the council offices. Legal aid would probably have been granted. She has little left over at the end of the month and stands a fair chance of winning her case, as required by Para 114 of the civil procedure code, which governs legal aid.

But she has not abandoned hope. She may feel she has been turned away at the council offices but she still reckons the court may be able to help.

She is right. For a consultation fee of DM10 she can take legal advice, but for this service too she must first qualify in a manner she finds embarassing.

On Tuesday afternoon she tries again, having been told to call at room 167 in the county court buildings. She has to take her turn, sitting on a bench in the corridor alongside a dozen others.

Everyone knows why everyone else is here. They all have problems they can no longer settle without assistance from someone with legal knowledge. Room 167 is the legal advice bureau.

An hour later she is inside, facing the official on duty across a desk. He starts by asking whether she qualifies as "of moderate means." He is happy to blunt its edge, but Gudrun is embarrassed by the question.

But once they have agreed that she does qualify, she is entitled to consult a lawyer for DM10.

Low-income groups all over Lower Saxony are entitled to consult a lawyer of their choice once screened by officials at 15 county courts.

Court officials or other civil servants are not entitled to give legal advice. Only Hamburg has legal advice centres that provide this service.

In Lower Saxony the Law Association has bridged the gap, sending a duty lawyer to the county courts twice a week. He is paid by the hour, with the Justice Ministry in Hanover footing to bill.

Gudrun's case presents no initial problems. The lawyer writes a letter to the landlord explaining her financial position. This may well dissuade the landlord from litigation.

If the landlord is still determined to take her to court, she will have to go to the council offices again. A "certificate of poverty" is a must if she is to stand any chance of justice.

Dieter Höbbel, a Hanover county court judge, thinks the facilities provided in Lower Saxony are a success. But not everyone for whom they are provided know of their existence.

Problems such as those of Gudrun frequently occur, and most people who face them have no more money than she has and are just as reluctant to take the legel plunge.

There must be some way in which lawmakers can help. Access to the courts free of charge may be a distant prospect, but there can be little doubt that legal aid and advice procedures need improving.

Anatole France, who died in 1924, put it in a nutshell. "The law in its majestic equality," he wrote 54 years ago, "Forbids both rich and poor to sleep under the bridges, beg on the streets and steal bread." It still does.

Reinhard Urschel

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 31 July 1978)

Magazine wins 'sexism' suit

A Hamburg court has dismissed the suit filed by 10 women against *Der Stern*, the illustrated weekly magazine, for alleged sexism in its choice of cover pictures.

Ordering the woman to pay costs, judge Alfred Engelschall regretted that the law left him with no option but to dismiss the case.

No other decision could have been reached, he told actress Inge Meysel — the only plaintiff to attend his summing-up — not even if the panel had consisted entirely of women.

The court appreciated the women's stand and admired their sense of commitment, he said. In 20 or 30 years' time legal action might well bring a decision in their favour.

Henri Nannen, editor-in-chief of *Der Stern*, was booed and catcalled as he kissed Frau Meysel's hand before the judge delivered his ruling.

The plaintiffs, who want the Hamburg magazine to stop prtraying women as mere sex objects, intend to appeal. They include Alice Schwarzer of the feminist monthly *Emma*, actress Erika Pluhar, novelist Luise Rinser and film director Margarete von Trotta.

The court held that it was up to lawmakers to judge when portrayal was permissible and when not. Were the court to issue a ruling, the defendant would have to know in future how far he might go.

But the issues at stake included personal viewpoints and taste. Views might differ without one side or the other being exclusively right or wrong.

The court also ruled that a handful of women were not entitled to file a suit on behalf of a majority of women in the Federal Republic; they could only sue the defendant for individual damages. None of the women had featured as cover girls, so there could be no question of individual damages. They had not, of course, claimed this, or that there was any resemblance between the cover girls to which they objected and themselves.

The court also saw no reason for assuming that women might be deemed collectively insultable. The same was true of Protestants or Roman Catholics as a group.

A majority of women could not be considered to share the plaintiffs' views, which formed merely one aspect of a continuing debate on the roles of the sexes.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 27 July 1978)

Stop flood of laws judges say

During the Bonn Bundestag's summer recess the Judges' Association has levelled fresh and trenchant criticism at MPs for producing a deluge of legislation.

A commentary in the association's publication carries the accusation that too many additions to the statute book, often poorly worded, might eventually constitute a denial of justice.

More than 1,500 Acts and roughly 2,300 other legal instruments are currently in force. During the last Bundestag 516 new laws or amendments to existing legislation were approved.

The flood of legislation and administrative inflation go hand in hand, the judges say. Laws need administration and administrators rely on a steady supply of laws and decrees to keep them occupied.

Assuming this trend becomes self-perpetuating, lawmakers are going to want to regulate more and more of everyday life, which runs counter to the tenet that the average citizen is a mature adult not in need of regimentation.

The judges say there are so many items of legislation on the statute book that the point of non-comprehension is frequently reached. Even legal experts have difficulty in finding their way through the maze.

Courts are overburdened, taking an unconscionable time to deal with cases. The constitution guarantees legal protection for all, but this presupposes swift proceedings, whereas cases can take so long as to be a denial of justice, the association says.

Poorly-framed legislation includes the Youth Aid Bill and the Restrictive Trade Practices Bill.

The one is full of empty phrases, repetitions and truisms, the other is likely, as it stands, to incorporate ideals rather than immediately applicable regulations, leaving courts to work out the details.

The Bundestag is shunning responsibility, the association says, burdening the courts with the role of *ersatz* lawmakers.

Judges see hope, however. The Opposition Christian Democrats have tabled a Bundestag motion calling for less legislation and a more readily comprehensible version of the body of the law.

The Bundestag home affairs committee, chaired by Social Democrat Axel Wernitz, has already held hearings at which judges and prosecuting counsel have spoken.

The Justice Ministry has scrapped a wordy Travel Agencies Bill and now proposes instead a much briefer amendment to the civil code.

Siegfried Michel

(Bremer Nachrichten, 19 July 1978)

■ SPORT

Exit sign for German grand prix racers?



Motor racing's Formula 1 German grand prix at Hockenheim was a washout for local drivers: there was not one German in the first 10 past the chequered flag.

It looks very much as though no Germans will be competing in grand prix motor racing next season. The contracts of Jochen Mass with ATS and Hans-Joachim Stuck with Shadow expire at the end of this season and Rolf Stommelen's Arrow stable has been banned from racing.

All three drivers have managed to keep a toehold in Formula 1 for years by generous sponsorship. Stommelen entered for his first Formula 1 grand prix in 1970, Mass in 1973 and Stuck in 1974.

Their best end-of-season rating was in 1977 when Jochen Mass was sixth driving a McLaren

Stommelen, 35, has notched up 45 grand prix over the years, but since Hockenheim has been virtually unemployed because a London court has ruled that Arrow may no longer compete in grand prix motor racing.

Jochen Mass: Not a single championship point this year. (Photos: Schirner)

The bench imposed the ban because 40 per cent of the Arrow is a carbon copy of the Shadow, hardly surprising since designer Tony Southgate brought his plans with him from Shadow last year.

But Arrow, the judge ruled, are in breach of patent. So Stommelen, from Cologne, is out of work.

Stuck, 27, began his grand prix career in Argentina in 1974, since when he has entered 57 Formula 1 races. Last season he failed to find a stable, but was signed by Brabham at the last minute when Carlos Pace of Brazil was killed in an air crash.

But the contract was not renewed at the end of 1977, so Stuck had to make to with Shadow, a second-rate marque.

"The Germans may come cheaper as top-flight drivers," says Britain's Max Mosley, the former March boss, "but youngsters like Derek Daly of Ireland stand a better chance of landing a fresh contract."

Jochen Mass is in even more of a predicament. He has been under a cloud for months.

His championship hopes for this season have been dashed, and his current spell of poor form is disheartening for a man who until recently seemed unable to put a foot wrong.

He began as a sailor in the merchant navy, went on to become a motor mechanic and rally driver and finally graduated to Formula 1.

But progress has been downhill since the end of last year. He pulled out of McLaren, a first-rate stable, and signed for ATS of Bad Dürkheim.

He has been an also-ran ever since, and his career seems in jeopardy. "We cannot imagine what Jochen will do when his big money days in grand prix racing are over," friends say.

And he will certainly find it hard to land a Formula 1 contract next season, having scored not a single world championship point this year.

In training he has usually been at the tail end, and at Monte Carlo he did not even qualify. Last year he scored 25 points and came sixth in the end-of-season ratings driving for McLaren.

Hans-Joachim Stuck: contract expires.



Rolf Stommelen: court ban on his car. (Photo: dpa)

"Hermann the German" team-mate James Hunt called Mass, who was popular personally but not highly rated as a driver.

"It's very hard working with Jochen," McLaren manager Caldell said in 1976. "He can never attune himself to a car. We are always in the dark where he is concerned. He stands in his own way."

"Jochen spent too much time worrying abourt his yacht on the Cote d'Azur and too little worrying about his racing," says BMW's Jochen Neerpasch.

Signing for a German stable was the final blow for the erstwhile hope of Formula 1. ATS were an inexperienced team and there was no-one to lend him a hand.

Mass had to shift for himself, but nothing much happened. His six years' experience in Formula 1 did not seem to be much benefit.

"Jochen has grown so idle that words fail me to describe how lazy he is," says a first-rate German driver who was called on to test-drive for ATS in his place.

"I reckon Mass has given up," says Keke Rosberg of Finland, who left Jochen standing in an ATS at Brand's Hatch. "He no longer takes any trouble, simply disappearing as soon as practice is over. Either he no longer wants to drive or he no longer can."

Burkhard Nuppeney

(Die Welt, 1 August 1978)

Polo players take a swing at 'elitist' reputation

Munich Polo Club recently staged the first German open championships, held on successive weekends. Polo players are keen to gain a following among the sporting public.

Popularity is what they want. They never chose isolation, or so they say. They are fed up with their game being dismissed as a sport for millionaires.

The polo players have three aims in mind. First, they would like to pull in the crowds. At the 1936 Olympics 53,000 spectators watched the polo tournament in Berlin.

Second, they would like a fair deal in the sporting press. Third, they want to part company with what has been dubbed the "Prince Philip syndrome."

Baron von Stain, who launched the Munich club in 1970, is most unhappy with polo's high society image, although his members undeniably include a number of aristocratic names.

"Call us gauchos if you must," says Ernst von Stain, "but never 'elitists'." Mind you, polo is an expensive hobby. You need at least two ponies of your own to take part in a tournament.

Most ponies are imported from Argentina. Sixteen-and-a-half hands is an average height, and they must be tough, good-humoured and in perfect condition.

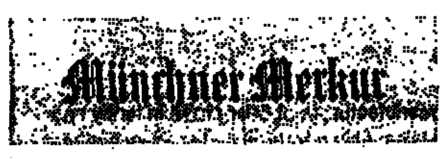
A polo pony costs between DM5,000 and DM9,000 and about DM400 a month in upkeep. The Munich club's 40-odd ponies are looked after by half a dozen Argentinian stable lads and exercised daily to keep fit.

Members pay a further DM2,000 a year towards club expenses, so polo is still a far cry from sport for the masses or the popularity of, say, soccer.

But must polo abandon hope of spectators merely because so few people can afford to play it themselves? Not if grand prix motor racing is any guide. A handful of drivers pull in enormous crowds.

In Argentina crowds of up to 40,000 watch major games at Palermo Stadium. In Germany, where horsemanship as such has proud traditions, much ground has yet to be made.

Polo is one of the oldest equestrian sports in the world and probably ranks



alongside ice hockey for speed and fury. The Persians, the best horsemen in the ancient world, are known to have played polo 2,700 years ago.

Other equestrian nations in the Near and Far East adopted the game. It gradually assumed the status of a philosophy or way of life.

Rulers judged the ability of their administrators by their prowess at polo. Chinese emperors entrusted good polo players with high office. The sport flourished for nearly 2,000 years.

British cavalry officers first saw polo in India in the mid-19th century. They were to be the first European polo players and the first British polo club was formed in 1859.

Polo was an Olympic sport from 1908 to 1936, gaining worldwide popularity and earning Argentina the reputation of leading polo country.

In the pampas small boys ride polo ponies like hussars. Their idol is Juan Carlos Hurriot, the world's most highly-rated player with a handicap of ten.

Argentina has 171 polo clubs, Germany seven. Clubs in the Federal Republic do not have the player quality to offset lack of numbers either.

It will be some time before they can even hope to rival the British let alone the Argentinians. Yet the Munich open championships had their fair share of thrills and spills.

The polo field is about 270 metres long from goal to goal and 180 metres wide. The goal is 7.20 metres wide. Two teams of four compete for possession of a bamboo ball 10 centimetres in diameter.

Polo ponies race at speeds of up to 60 kilometres an hour (37 1/2mph). Players are handicapped, with ratings from -2 to +10.

Each game consists of four seven-and-a-half minute chukkas. Teams change ends whenever a goal is scored. The players numbered 1 and 2 are the forwards, No. 2 usually being the captain. No. 3 is the *libero*, or sweeper, and No. 4 the back.

Munich has 13 players and fields three teams. Their star is a South American pro by the name of Correa whose bodychecks are devastating.

He is nimbler and safer in ball control than his German team-mates Ernst von Stain, Baron Gross von Trockau and Manfred Braun, too.

As hosts, the Munich club were politeness itself. As competitors, they fought tooth and nail but were unable to win any of their trophies.

Klara Kemper

(Münchner Merkur, 31 July 1978)